

# *Belgian Laces*



The Dance of the Giants Cogène et Florentine of Beloeil  
surrounded by members of the "Sans Soucis" Society.

## **BELGIAN LACES**

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Official Quarterly Bulletin of  
**THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS**  
Belgian American Heritage Association  
Founded in 1976

### **Our principal objective is:**

Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity

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February 1998

Dear Members,

A new year, a new cover color for your Laces a new theme for the year ... were on our way again! We hope you all enjoyed a great Holiday season, surrounded by family and friends and that you too were ready to take hold of the new tasks ahead for 1998. We wish you all lots of success in your family research hoping that through articles in Laces you will learn more about your cultural heritage as well as find "the missing ink" in your family history. Thanks to all who sent us good wishes, articles and suggestions. We welcome these, take them to heart and do our best to bring you the information and the topics you want to find in the quarterly. This issue has grown to 24 pages, because of all the contributions from our members ... Thank YOU for your collaboration!

We also want to thank the about 50% of our membership who have sent the renewals for 1998 on time, It saves us so much time and money! Unfortunately, we still had to mail reminders to 50% of our members. There were however a few errors in our mailing list, for which we apologize to those who received a reminder and had paid on time.

We were happy that several of you took up our suggestion to offer a gift membership to friends and/or relatives. All together, we can keep the organization healthy and make it grow!

In this issue you will find several articles pertaining to Belgian life and Belgian Folklore. The article about the giants and dragons was a great joy to research and to compile; the article on Flanders' Belfries arrived like called for and the story of the American Hero in Peruwez gives a glimpse of life in a small community in Wallonia. We hope you will enjoy reading these.

Pierre has been very busy answering the mountains of correspondence and requests for translations of various certificates in Latin, French, Flemish, German and yes, even one in Czech. He does repeat a very important request: when asking for help in research, please include ALL information you have. It is impossible to know where to start if you only tell us 'my grandfather came from the old country and my mother was his daughter' no names, no other details .... in the future he will not respond anymore to such cryptic requests. We need names, dates, places, - any detail you may have, even if it doesn't seem that the question you have is in need of further details.

This goes also, and especially for those of you who contact members in Belgium. Our Belgian collaborators are mostly, if not professional genealogists, then amateur genealogists with lots of experience doing research. BUT THEY NEED COMPLETE INFORMATION and often get discouraged with the lack of details submitted by our members. Besides please when writing for information to our members in Belgium, include two International Reply Coupons available at all post offices in the United States, or join a couple dollars for postage. International mailings are more expensive from Europe than to Europe. One more thing: please, don't omit to thank for any response you receive, even if the information obtained is not what you were needing! Even a negative answer takes time and effort on the part of the person answering you! Let's all work together for the best of all and help one another in family research, but beware of taking advantage of others.

Upon this, I wish you all "Happy Readings", till we visit again in May 1998!

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

721	- Alec T. Monroe	Clifton, VA
722	- James Niccum	Fort Meyers, FL
723	- Rev. P. Marcel Inghels	Liège, Belgium
724	- Nation Genealogical Soc.	Arlington, VA
726	- Paulette Morris	St. Louis, MO
726	- Fach P. Pensis	Indo, CA
727	- Beverly Riggs	Bridgetown, NJ
728	- Paulette & Collette Poulaert	Waimes, Belgium
720	- Arthur W. Poelvoorde	Rock Island, IL
730	- Lisa Kay Geers	Zoar, OH
731	- Evelyn Dybvik	Baxter, MN
732	- Patricia Killen	Tacoma, WA
733	- Jean Tilmant	Sombreffe, Belgium
734	- Erica B. Miller	Moorestown, NJ
735	- John Meyer	Athens, GA

**BONBON APPETIT**

Brussels Chocolates:

Nobody knows the "Truffels" I've seen...

by Gary Lee - The Washington Post Nov.2.97

Submitted by Howard Thomas

On a tour of the most esteemed chocolate houses in Brussels, my guide breezed past a window laden with deep brown Godivas, and another stacked high with the finest pralines of Leonidas, hardly blinking an eyelid.

In this city where chocolates are sold on nearly every corner, served in white gloves and savored like aged Scotch, the products of Godiva - which contain added sugar to suit the American palate - are a bit too sweet for most locals, explained Valentin Thijs, a self-styled epicure of Belgian cuisine.

As for Leonidas, he added, it makes a fine chocolate, probably as tasty as any in the Belgian capital. But then, lowering his voice to a whisper and glancing around, he warned against offering the budget priced brand to Belgians as gifts.

So where were the real Belgian chocolates?

The flagship store of **Neuhaus**, situated in the elegant Galerie de la Reine, was our first stop. At 140 years old, it is Belgium's oldest chocolate maker and, by most accounts, its most revered. The inventor of the concept of the praline (a chocolate shell inside which liqueurs, fruits or other delicacies 818 secretly borne) and originator of the idea of stacking chocolates in a box rather than piling them in a bag, Neuhaus has forged a path followed by nearly all its competitors.

Neuhaus also has helped refine the Belgian chocolate recipe, composed of about one-third cocoa, one-third cocoa butter and one-third milk and sugar. French chocolates contain greater portions of cocoa butter; the Swiss add more milk. At \$3.25 for 400 grams (about 4 ounces). Neuhaus products are among the most pricey. Corné de la Toison d'Or, a few doors down from Neuhaus in the Galerie was another delight. Made with fresh cream and no preservatives, the chocolates should be eaten within a few days of purchase, a clerk explained. All too willing to comply, I bought 100 grams for \$2.80 and gobbled one right there.

In the course of five days, I settled on Galler as my personal favorite. This firm's products boast a richer, fuller taste than the others, one that pleased my tongue greatly the first time and every time thereafter. At \$3.40 for 100 grams, this chocolate fell in the higher-priced category, but proved worth every bite.

For general trendiness, I liked Planete Chocolat. After observing the old-fashioned ways of the Belgian chocolate

scene, where flavors and designs have remained largely unchanged for a century, proprietor Frank Duval decided there was room for something newer and fresher. The result is a small operation where customers can observe the manufacturing process downstairs and retreat upstairs to a cozy cafe for wine and pralines. New flavors like cinnamon and fresh designs have helped made Planete the fast favorite of the younger generation of Brussels chocolate munchers.

**Of Lukken and Lukijzers**

In the last issue of Laces, I again printed the recipe for galettes, which in areas of West Flanders are called "Lukken" in other areas "Suikerwafeltjes" and again in others Nieuwjaarswafeltjes. By whatever name it is known in your family, it always refers to the beautiful Belgian tradition of baking these delicate and delicious little waffles for the Holidays. Going through the mountain of information and newspaper clippings we have in our office, I came across a little article, which I would like to share with you, cut out of an old issue of the De Gazette van Detroit (I think) under the title: Of Lukken and Lukijzers (no author, no date, no name of paper was noted with this article) !

Now is the time for all loyal Flemish Americans to rally behind their lukijzers and bake the traditional New Year's treat named lukken. Not found in the standard Dutch dictionaries, the word lukke is listed in De Bo's Westvlaamsch Idioticon, a two-volumes dictionary of typical West Flemish words and expressions, published in 1870. The name seems to have originated in Veurne Ambacht, the region of Veurne also known as Bachten de Kupe. The town of Lo became famous for its Lukken after Jules Destrooper started a confectionery there in 1886. Eventually his business branched out to Oostkamp. In the U.S.A. De Strooper's Butter Waffles may be found in many city food stores. Veurne has a Bread Museum worth visiting.

The word lukke is defined as a "thin, solid little wafer, usually oval-shaped, baked of flour, butter and sugar." As a preservative and to add a special taste, people use a shot of rum or whisky, and their own secret ingredient. Lukken are given mostly as New Year's treats, and therefore they are also named Nieuwjaarswafeltjes. The saying Het gaat lijk lukken bakken, it goes like baking lukken, is said of something that can be done fast and easily.

The word itself is derived from the word geluk, which can be translated good luck, good fortune, happiness; the expression luk of raak means hit or miss. Similarly the verb lukken is a form of gelukken, to succeed, whereas mislukken means to fail.

**NORTHWEST NEWS**

The Belgian Picnic is planned for July 25 in Boring! Pearl and Don Vanden Hede will be hosting the party again this year. Look for more details in the May issue of Laces, but PLEASE, mark your calendars right now and plan to visit with old and new friends again. Pearl also announced that she is planting her beautiful floral arrangements for Mother's Day already, so Portlanders, plan to put in your orders on time, we know how popular her flower arrangements are. We all have had a chance to admire her handy work at the yearly picnics. You can call Pearl at (603) 658 7088

## OF GIANTS & DRAGONS: Myths & Traditions in Belgium

by Pierre and Leen Inghels



Situated in the heart of Europe, at the intersection of many cultures, coveted by many of the so called Great Powers of the different eras, the small country of Belgium is rich in legends and traditional festivities, religious as well as secular. It is here that through the centuries, a number of parades in which we find (among other mysterious entrees) the giants and dragons, whose origin is not always known anymore, the event that gave birth to them often shrouded in the darkness of time. We know that many folklore celebrations in Western Europe found their origin in the religious festivals and processions of the middle ages, in ducasses and kermesses (village fairs), in the Ommegangs (cavalcades) and other popular feasts. The greatest surprise however is that they have strived to this day and still make for the heydays of the calendar year.

The origin of Giants and Dragons can be traced back to the beginning of civilization. In the oldest mythologies of pagan Europe, these figures, half divine and half human, were believed to have been part of the origin of the world and made humanity emerge from the original chaos. Others, although not as usual, found the origin in Greek Mythology. The first processional Dragons appears in Western Europe around the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> century. The human Giant only appears in Europe around the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century to impersonate the perennial difficulties and dangers the cities faced, from the outside of their walls as well as from the inside.

What is the meaning of these giants, and where do they come from?

At first, they were figures taken from the bible or from popular legends, replacing some of the myths. The gigantic figures used in Medieval times, were inspired by the "Mystery Plays", and enacted scenes of the Old and New testament on the steps in front of the churches or on the market places and this way brought the "bible" to the illiterate people of the time.

Some of the best known characters certainly come also from religious legends reminiscent of the legendary fights opposing the protective saints of Christian religion to the dragons... the fight of the good spirits against the spirits of death and evil .... like: "Saint Georges fighting the Dragon and Saint Christopher carrying the Child Jesus on his shoulder, and carrying a lantern searching for truth", or "David fighting the giant Goliath; Samson also found his "giant" parading in Belgium's streets.

These biblically based stories were performed in local pageants

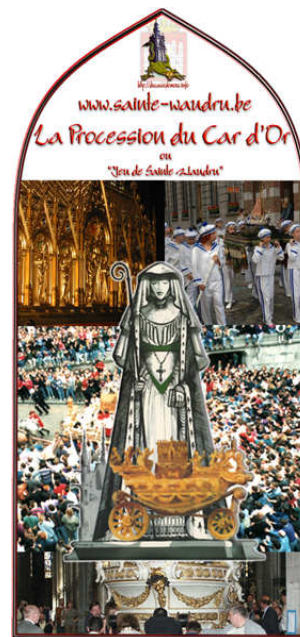
all over Europe and were common place in Russia before the communist take-over, little by little however, figures were taken from local legends bound to the foundation of the city, offering protection in times of need, or instrumental in its blossoming: for instance in Antwerp. "Druon Antigon who was the enemy of the people and prohibited people from getting into the city and who was defeated by the good giant "Brabo"; or one or the other King or Emperor, like Charlemagne", who became a giant claimed by many cities of Belgium, France and Germany!

Another "common" legend is represented by the horse "Bayard" carrying the four sons of the Count Aymon de Dordone, who according to legend, went to Paris to present his sons to Charlemagne. The day after the young men were knighted, one of them killed the nephew of the Emperor and so, they had to flee the imperial anger and revenge. They escaped the continuous pursuit on the back of a magic horse, enormous and strong beyond comprehension. Once, when escaping from the Emperor's armies, the horse jumped over the Meuse River landing on top of the massive cliffs of the river. The power of his hoofs split the rock from top to bottom. ("Le Rocher Bayard" to be admired now near the church of Dinant.)

Here too, several cities in Wallonia as well as in Flanders claim the "right" to the legend and therefore to "the horse".

I remember singing for instance: " 't Ros Beyard doet zijn ronde - in de stad van Dendermonde. Die van Aalst die zijn zo kwaad - omdat hier't Ros Beyard gaat" (The steed Bayard makes its rounds in the city of Dendermonde. Those from Aalst are quite mad, because the steed Bayard goes around here.) - As a result quite a few cities pride themselves with parading "Le Cheval Bayard" or ' "t Ros Beyard one bigger and mightier than the other, through their streets during the local festivals.

There so also less heroic events that are commemorated in the pageants, happenings that do not necessarily bring glory to the place, like the "sorceress" from Fosse-la-Ville, in remembrance of the



famous process and execution of a sorceress (sounds familiarly? - like the American witches from Salem?)

In Limelette there is a more contemporary origin for the "Zouave of Lijmelette" which commemorates the valiant baffle by the French Zouave troops during the defenses of the Dyle river in 1940, and in Tournai, the "Vendéen" has his place in honor of the French soldiers, who died in Tournai in 1914; or the "D'Jonsef d'Amerique" in Walhain-St.Paul, who was the recruiting agent for the emigration to the United States. Even a giant Tintin is now parading among the Turlerons" of Wavre.



**D'Jonsef  
d'Amerique**

As time goes on, the enormous frameworks which make up the carcass of these giants, built of wicker, wood and/or metal, covered with material, become tutelary images of the cities. In many cases, they mark the identity and foster the cohesion of the community. As said before the origin of our giants is to be found in biblical stories, popular legends,



**The Giant Hennepin**

Some exceptions, like the "Cheval Bayard" (Bayard horse) weighing about 1300 pounds, is carried by 16 men. The giant's construction has to be always very carefully balanced, to make the task of the carrier possible. Besides the problem of the weight and the top-heavy character of the contraption, the carrier only has a small opening below the front of the belt to see where he is walking.

It is through this small opening that the giant-carrier has to direct himself during the long parades, often interrupted by a few mandatory dance steps when the crowd sings the Reuzenlied - the song of the giants... (see front cover)

These figures are not only to be found in Belgium, but are popular and well represented in most of the European countries. We find them in Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, and others. As in Belgium, the giant figures parade through the streets on special occasions, national or local holidays, and on some religious celebrations.

The greatest surprise is, however that they travel long distances to participate in "Meetings of Giants", some kind

myths and often attach themselves to historical facts like the ones mentioned above. They can also be traced back to the role of local characters. Statues of city fathers, benefactor or demagogue, some of them accompanied by wife and children, are the ritual presence in parades or pageants as reminders of their "good" or "evil" deeds. Standing up to ten, twelve or even fourteen feet tall, each giant is carried by only one man. Most of the giants weigh about one hundred kilos, or about 220 pounds.

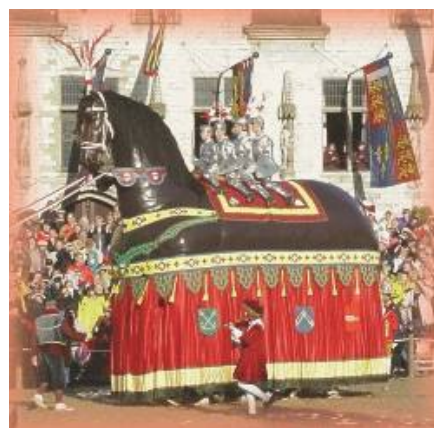
of Jamboree, coming all together to participate in pageants of other cities within the country and even abroad. We want to mention the "meeting" in Brussels, attended by more than 200 giants from all over Belgium; Steenvoorde in France, assembled over 130 giants, representing most of the European countries: Maastricht (The Netherlands) attracted 106; the little village of Matadepera in Spain in 1982, assembled 208 giants from all over Europe, and in 1992 more than 600 giants came to this small Spanish village about 20 miles from Barcelona. To no-one's surprise this marked a world record to this day.

Nivelles' giant "Argayon (see Belgian Laces Vol. 17 #63 - '95 2) paid a visit to Birmingham, Alabama in 1978 accompanied by a girl from Yper, and the whole family "Argayon, Argayonne and baby Lola" visited Norfolk, VA in 1991.

We received newspaper clippings from our niece In Belgium at the yearly "Outing at the Giants" in Tervuren, where this year (1997) no less than 30 giants walked through the old suburb of Brussels for the 25th Jubilee of the Reuzenstoet" - Parade of the Giants. The local giants "Pie, Wanne and Jommeke" were followed by "Giant Bert from the boy scouts: "Gust-the Endive giant from Moorsel; "Den Toeter" (the horn blower) from Tielruide; "Palouk and Palika" from Koekelberg; Philippo, Isabella and Philiep" from Overmere; "Coupi" from Ath; "Toontje and Marieke" from Bergen op Zoom and "Gigantius" from Maastricht (the last two entries from Holland) and many more, too many to mention here. Between the giants march several colorful bands and folks



**Bastogne**



**Bayard**

art groups, the whole guarantying a pleasure for the eye and merry-making in the heart.

There are about 1500 giants in Belgium, counting about 900 in Flanders, 500 in Wallonia and about 80

for Brussels alone. A large number of those are the original ones, in some cases constructed several hundred years ago and are housed in museums.

After the parade or the "meeting", the giants" are dismantled and stored carefully for the next event. Some of the constructions come apart in three pieces,

but for most of them, the figure comes apart at the waist. Some of the Belgian communities in the New World have taken the tradition overseas, and Brussels, WI has two of them, who are used regularly for Belgian Days and other "kermesses" in the area. We just learned that Toronto, Can, has giants that take part in the "multi cultural festival called Caravan, featuring international cities, each with a pavilion offering food, entertainment and an introduction to the arts of the city featured. The Belgo-Canadian Association of Toronto provided folk music and dancing and members dressed as familiar giants of Flemish folklore."

There may be other Belgian communities in the States that have their "giants, please let us know, we would like to recognize you!



Whoever goes to Europe and especially to Belgium, will certainly have seen and maybe even participated in some of the old folklore traditions: religious processions, where statues of diverse saints are called by the participants,

accompanied by prayers and songs; or pageants, where people are dressed in costumes handed down from different historic periods (like the Holy Blood procession in Brugge) or with different meanings (like the Gilles de Binche) and of them accompanied with gaiety, fun and laughter, in which the whole community, be it large or small and the whole population, be it young or old, partakes.

Oh yes, there are parades and festivities in the United States, like the beautiful Rose Festival Parade in Portland, Oregon - or the Chinese festivals with their Dragons in San Francisco - or the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, which comes probably closest to their counterparts in Europe, due to the exuberant participation of the spectators and the merrymaking that follows the parade. It is this fact that makes for the success and the longevity of the traditions in Belgium: everybody gets involved and celebrates, even later, back home, where for the occasion, mother will bake waffles or serve rijstap to her excited family!

#### Sources:

- JP Ducattelle Géants et Dragons- Casterman - 1996
  - J Magee The Belgians from Ontario - A History; Dundum Press 1985.
  - Various Belgian newspaper clippings oa. September 1997
- <http://www.geant-samson.be/geant.html>  
<http://users.skynet.be/calomme/meyboom/fr/liens.html>  
<http://www.museedumasque.be/>

#### IN MEMORIAM

Our Belgian American researchers' family has been notified of and deplores the loss of two of our members: in Harlington, Texas passed away on May 17 1997 **Marguerite Brownlee**. Her husband writes "She enjoyed Belgian Laces immensely."



From Belgium comes the very sad news that it has pleased the Lord to call back to him our good friend

**Dina Van Praet.**

She was born 30 December 1937 and passed away 18 November 1997.

"You, the delicate spark in our hearts, in our memories; who was, is, and will always be with us in times of sorrow and especially in times of joy. You who has always been available to listen, to advise and to help us with your positive attitude; You, who has given to all who have known you a piece of your heart, of your spirit..."

We hope we will be able to give to others what you have given us: Love, understanding, and respect for fellow human beings

wherever you went, in each new encounter, a pearl of love deposited delicately in our treasure chest, a new hope in our hearts."

(From lectures offered by friends at her funeral service.)

*The Belgian Researchers present to both families our deep felt condolences and hope that time will heal the wounds but keep the memories of their life forever*

#### Concerning the Microfilming Process of the Genealogical Society of Utah

By Donald G. Barbezat

Discovering your family tree - doing genealogy or family history research can be an exciting experience. It is now the number one hobby world wide. Many people just like you have discovered who their ancestors were. You can gain new insights into your own family and discover a sense of belonging, perhaps in a way that you have never felt before. You may discover heroes and heels in your past and you may not be the most popular person in your family as you research your family free because you will probably debunk several cherished family legend with hard cold facts. Not everyone is descended from royalty or some famous person but all of us are composites of some very wonderful people, our ancestors, who lived and died to make us what we are today.

In November 1894, a group of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints founded the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and opened a genealogical library. This library, now known as the Family History Library, has become the largest library of its kind in the world.

In 1938, the Genealogical Society began gathering and preserving records on microfilm. Today, more than 150 photographers are filming birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military and other records throughout the world. Much of the collection of microfilmed records are available to individual researchers at the Family History Library, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150; Telephone: (801) 240-2331; and through 2,000 family history centers world wide.

The Salt Lake Family History center is for family research. It has the world's largest collection of records of deceased people who have lived during the past 400 years. This record collection, which grows by 4,000 rolls of microfilm and 400 volumes per month includes information on over 1.5 billion deceased people.

Trained staff and volunteers work at the library to help people search these records and decipher the clues about their ancestors. These services are open to all at no charge except for copies, supplies and film rental charges. On an average day, the library helps more than 2,000 people search for family ties to past generations. An additional 4,000 people search the microfilms in over 1,000 family history centers in 43 countries. Like millions of other people, you may well find records of your ancestors here.

Genealogy has been a life long passion; passed along to me by my father. I married a lovely Belgian girl whom I met at the university and convinced her that she needed a Misses degree rather than a Masters degree. She is Andrée L. Duchesne-Barbezat. She was born in Charleroi, Belgium. Her father, Maurice G. Duchesne, comes from the Provinces of Namur and Liege. Her Mother, Simonne U Dervael, came from the Provinces of West Flanders and Brabant.

Andrée and I have been sent by the Genealogical Society of Utah to do microfilming in the State Archives at Liege, Belgium, at rue du Chera, 79, 4000 Liege, Belgium.

We can be contacted there at 32-04-252- 0393, Ext.206 or by FAX at 320-4229-3350.

The archivist is a lovely lady who is most cooperative. We operate two 35MM cameras; I am copying birth, marriage, divorce and death records of the many smaller towns and cities in the Province of Namur and Andrée is doing "Pièces d'Annexes aux Mariages" (Supporting documents that had to be filed with the civil authorities with the marriage petition.) These, also, all of the towns and cities of the Province of Namur.

The dates covered by these records are for the most part in the 1800's. The earliest record that we have seen is on a

piece of velum (very thin leather) dating from 800 AD with a wax seal the diameter of a baseball.

There are four other professional, full time microfilmmers employed by the Genealogical Society of Utah working in Belgium and Luxembourg to preserve and record this nation's rich heritage. Our supervisor is Jean Huysman.

We live in the center of Liège on the Island of Outre Meuse. We have a wonderful view of the Meuse River where we can watch the péniches (canal barges) go by on the river carrying all sorts of cargo; many with the family living on board including the children and their pets.

We would be available to answer general type of questions and to provide the names and addresses of people who would be available to assist those who desire help. However, our schedule is such that we cannot provide individual research assistance.

May we recommend an excellent reference book by Angus Baxter, "In Search of Your European Roots." Published by Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. He has provided the names and addresses of many offices that may be contacted in Belgium; both Walloon and Flemish.

Should you desire additional information, please contact us at: Donald and André. Barbezat, 2, Quai de Gaulle - 011, B - 4020 Liege, Belgium or call us at (011) 32 4 344 1002.

#### **From Brussels: Belgian Budget looks GOOD!**

No crisis! That was the unusual news this fall concerning next year's budget. Every previous year since 1982 there had been desperate meetings between senior cabinet ministers seeking spending cuts or tax hikes to get the budget deficit down to manageable proportions.

The deficit had risen to as high as 13% of gross domestic product in 1982, following several years of reckless overspending. Ever since then the annual budgets have been very tight, and the pressure was greatly increased by the Maastricht Treaty, which stipulated that countries should reduce their deficits to 3 percent of GDP or less to qualify for the single currency.

Heroic -but deeply unpopular- efforts, led by Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, now seems at last to be paying off. Maystadt was able to announce in September that the deficit for 1997 will be down to 2.8 or 2.9% of GDDP, and next year's to 2.5%. Belgium should therefore qualify for economic and monetary union (EMU). The result is that Budget Minister Herman Van Rompuy was able to introduce a 'stand still' budget for 1998, with no tax increases and no spending cuts. The days of national belt-tightening seem at last to be at an end.

This achievement does not seem to have done anything -so far at least- to improve the popularity of the center-left coalition government, of Christian Democrats and Socialist, led by Jean Luc Dehaene. Gravely damaged by bribery scandals, for which several

former ministers we now awaiting trial the coalition parties are far behind their right-wing liberal opponents in the opinion polls.

An election is not due until May 1999, but it is far from certain that the government will be able to survive until then, and most observers now expect the Liberals to be the big winners when Belgians next go to the polls.

— Dick Leonard

From "European Magazine of the European Union Nov 97

### **Back to Flanders...**

Every year, the first Saturday of July, there is a reunion at all the Flemings living abroad in one or the other city in Flanders, organized by ViW - Vlamingen in de Wereld – (Flemings in the World). These reunions have taken place before in Mechelen, Ghent, Ieper and Lier, historical and typical Flemish cities. We don't have the information yet for the place where the reunion will take place in 1998, so stay tuned, we will announce it as soon as we have received the information. We do know the date, however, - the reunion will be held July 4<sup>th</sup> 1998. I'm sure that descendants of "Flemings Abroad" will be just as happily received as the newly expatriated ones!

### **The Gangway in Antwerp**

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1997 marks the date when Antwerp officially became a "cruise-ship harbor". A gigantic mobile gangway was inaugurated on that day, which makes of this historic city a welcome stopping place for the passengers of the large cruise ships that plow the worlds ocean. We can consider this gangway as a symbol: a meeting way, a new possibility for tourists from around the world to become acquainted with Flanders. From "Vlamingen in de Wereld" #19-1997

### **The European Union and its Growing Pains**

One of the many difficulties to the unification of Europe, besides the common currency which is supposed to take effect in 1999, is the common measures in all fields where governments set the standards. In previous issues of Laces we have mentioned the chocolate industry where Belgium uses the highest percentage of cocoa in its products and where other famous chocolate producing countries want to force Belgium in lowering its quality. Now we received from our member Jean Duwez (Palatine IL) the following amusing slide about another tradition dear to the hearts of the Dutch this time: Dutch workers can safely step into the new millennium in medieval wooden shoes.

Researchers who put six centuries of romance and tradition to the test said Thursday they're satisfied the humble but venerable Dutch clog can go toe-to-toe with steel-reinforced safety boots in the workplace.

"We were very tough on them, and they came through." said Jan Broeders of the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research which ran the battery of tests.

"I'm not surprised. We've known for years that clogs give very good protection," he said. "A normal shoe only protects the toes. A wooden shoe protects the entire foot."

Skeptical bureaucrats at European Union headquarters in Brussels had ordered the testing last Spring, part of their ongoing push to set common standards for everything from computers to condoms. Though most wooden shoes today are sold to tourists or used by the Dutch in their gardens, they remain the tootgear of choice for thousands of farmers, bishennen, road repairmen and others.

Without an EU stamp of approval officials had warned, companies could be liable for injuries suffered by clog-wearing employees. Wooden work shoes, usually made from native poplar or willow, technically have been legal in the Netherlands since 1995, when the EU began setting product standards for its 15 member countries.

From Associated Press 11.15.97

### **OHIO COMMEMORATES CENTENNIAL OF BELGICA ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION**

Belgium's role in the exploration of Antarctica, a hundred years ago, was the focus of a two day symposium organized by the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, in early September.

A contemporary Belgian scientist, Professor Hugo Decler of the University of Brussels - who was honored at the symposium for his own outstanding achievements in the field of scientific polar research spoke on the discoveries of the Belgica Antarctic Expedition of 1897.

Decler pointed out that the Belgica with its 19 scientists and mariners from five nations - including such notable polar explorers as Roald Amundsen and Frederick Cook under the dynamic leadership of Belgian Captain Adrien de Gerlache de Gomery - was in fact the first international expedition to Antarctica.

The symposium paid tribute to Adrien de Gerlache: besides the remarkable scientific and human achievements of his polar expedition, he laid the foundations for true scientific cooperation in the exploration of Antarctica. The Belgian was also the first to stress the necessity of preserving the sixth continent exclusively for non-military scientific purposes.

History became more tangible to symposium participants thanks to the presence of descendants of explorers Max van Rysselberghe, second engineer aboard the Belgica and Frederick Cook, the ship's medical doctor. Warren Cook, a great-great nephew of the latter, presented a replica of ship's flag to Raoul Delcorde, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of Belgium, who represented his country at the symposium.

Delcorde summarized the activities taking place in Belgium over the next couple of years to

commemorate the expedition, including an international symposium. Other highlights: exhibitions on "The 6th Continent - Belgians in Antarctica" and The Polar Fleet," and the first crossing of the Antarctic Continent on foot -- with skis but without dogs and supplies -- which will be attempted by two Belgians between now and next February. From Belgium Today - Nov.Dec. 1997

For more information on the expedition, see Laces Vol. 19 #73 - '97.4 - pgs 63-64.

### **Mother Teresa - a Woman in Love**

Father Edward LeJoly, a Belgian born Jesuit, has written a book with the above title, about the life and work of Mother

Teresa. His account is an inspiring tale of the power of love. Father LeJoly has lived and worked most of his life in Calcutta. He is the author of 24 books published in 25 countries. He has known Mother Teresa from the beginnings of the missionaries of Charity and has been active as spiritual director, and confessor of the Sisters in Calcutta for many years. As Mother Teresa herself told him, "I don't care what they say or write about me. But I do care what YOU write, because you know us and have been with us from the beginning"

ISBN: 0-87793-496-7 (\$7.95) - Ave Maria Press - Notre Dame, IN 40566

## **The WISCONSIN CORNER**

A trip to Belgium in September 1998 was the preference shown by members of the Peninsula Belgian-American Club in a questionnaire mailed to them last November. The officers are now arranging the schedule and will mail the information with the Spring newsletter. They are looking for a same number of participants this year.

Although a bit late, winter has arrived in Wisconsin. The snow and cold curtails some activities, but nothing stops the pursuit of our ancestors! With that in mind, we continue with the Declarations of Intention to Become a Citizen by early Belgian immigrants in Brown County, Wisconsin.

### **Declarations of Intention: Brown Co, Wisconsin**

This is a continuation of the series of persons from Belgium who declared their intention to become citizens of the United States in Brown County, Wisconsin. The lists were extracted from original Declarations on file at the Archives of the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin/Green Bay. Names are given as they appear, with corrections, if known, made in parentheses. Please note that the information may not be exact as many immigrants could not write nor spell their names, did not remember their exact birth years, nor their exact date of arrival.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Year</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Declaration</b>
Desire HENDRICKS	1830	New York	April 1856	29 July 1856
Pierre J. HENQUINET	1836	New York	August 1855	26 Feb 1856
Francois HENRY	1838	New York	April 1856	4 June 1858
Jean Joseph HERALY	1815	New York	Oct 1856	4 Nov 1856
X. HERALY	1814	New York	August 1856	7 Nov 1856
J.B.HERLACHE, le vieux (Sr.)	1611	New York	August 1856	14 August 1856
J.B.HERLACHE	1817	New York	August 1856	14 August 1856
A. HERLACHE	1807	Mackinac	April 1856	18 June 1856
Joseph HEYRMAN	1832	Paw York	April 1855	4 Nov 1856
Loopold GHEYSEMBURGH	1821	Green Bay	June 1856	7 July 1856
Henry HELSEN (ALSTEEN ?)	1809	New York	May 1856	26 May 1856
Pierre HOTE (HAUTE)	1836	New York	April 1856	4 June 1856
Albert JACQUART	1835	New York	Oct 1855	4 Nov 1856
J.J HUSSIN	1813	New York	July 1856	18 August 1856
J.B. ISTAS	1837	Boston	July 1856	23 July 1856
J.J JACQUE		Boston	April 1856	3 June 1856
Alexandre JACOUART	1835	Green Bay	June 1856	3 July 1856
R.JAQUE	1815	New York	July 1856	18 August 1856
Adolphe JADIN	1836	New York	Oct 1855	4 Nov 1856
François J JANDRIN		New York	April 1856	7 May 1856
Jan Joseph JANDRIN	1820	New York	March 1855	26 Mar 1856
Constant JANDRAIN	1825	Boston	April 1856	29 April 1856
Jean-Baptiste JEANDRIN	1819	New York	April 1856	9 May 1856
Joseph JANSON	1815	New York	April 1856	13 May 1856

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GiIain JEREMDON (GERONDALE) 1814  
 Charles JEROLDEELS (GEROLDALE) 1815  
 JISSINGAR (?) 1801  
 J.J. JONAERTS 1803  
 Andre Lambert JOSEPH  
 or Lambert Joseph ANDRE 1828  
 Joseph August JOURDON 1815  
 J. L JUNION 1816  
 Antoine J. KAYE 1825  
 J. B. KAYE 1821  
 John Joseph KAYE 1796  
 Charles KENACH 1838  
 Antoine KINEM (?) 1791  
 Joseph KEMMR (?) 1808  
 Noe KORSEILLE 1828  
 Jean Joseph LABIGOIS 1820  
 Louis LA BEE (LABEE/LABY) 1828  
 Peter LABY 1830  
 Antoine LA COOK (LECOCQ) 1796  
 Joseph LACOURT 1831  
 Marc LACROIX 1793  
 Maximilien LACROIX 1833  
 Maximilien LADURON 1805  
 John Baptiste LAISSE 1831  
 Joseph LAISSE 1796  
 Marie-Joseph LA...ERRE(?) 1812  
 Jean-Joseph LALUZERNE 803  
 Antoine LAMBEAU 1828  
 C. LAMARRE 1836  
 Constant LAMBLLOT 1832  
 LAMBERT 1808  
 Jean LAMBERT  
 J. F. or J. P. LARDINOIS 1816  
 B. F. LAROSE 1825  
 Jean-Baptiste LAURENT 1819  
 Marc Joseph LOUIS 1835  
 Florentin LEBRUN 1832  
 J. B. LECAPITAINE 1805  
 J. B. LECOCQ 1795  
 Charles LECOCQ 1837  
 Charles J. LEDOCQ 1834  
 David Joseph LEESON 1836  
 J. B. LEFEVRE 1816  
 Alphonse LEFEVPE 1830  
 J. Bte LEFEBVRE 1831  
 Leopold LEFEBVRE 1818  
 Jean-Baptiste LEFEBVRE 1830  
 John Joseph LEFEVRE 1798  
 Ed. L'EGLISE 1837  
 J. A. LEGRAIVE 1816  
 Felicien LEGRAIVE 1838  
 John Baptist LEMON (LEMENS) 1813  
 \_bert LEONARD 1796  
 Leopold LECOQUE (LECOCQ) 1835  
 Theodots LIBOTTE 1834  
 J.J. LIEGEOIS 1825  
 Pierre Joseph LIGOT 1830  
 J.J. LISMON (ASIMONT?) 1832  
 John Joseph LOUIS 1805  
 Marie Therese Joseph LOUIS 1813  
 Alexandrin, ?? (COMBRE) 798  
 Henry Joseph LIMIEUX (LEMIEUX) 1836  
 lac,e LISON 1839  
 Pierre Joseph ROLLIN 1806  
 Luc LANKUNE 1835

## 9

Green Bay	July 1856	14 Jul 1856
Green Bay	July 1856	14 Jul 1856
New York	April 1856	5 Mar 1856
New York	April 1856	15 Sep 1856
New York	Apr 1856	10 May 1856
New York	Dec 1855	19 Jan 1856
New York	March 1856	19 Apr 1856
Boston	May 1856	4 Jun 1856
Boston	May 1856	4 Jun 1856
Boston	May 1856	4 Jun 1856
New York	March 1856	29 Apr 1856
New York	March 1856	17 Apr 1856
Green Bay	August 1856	8 August 1856
New York	July 1856	18 Aug 1856
New York	Sept 1856	22 Sep 1856
New York	June 1855	30 Dec 1856
New York	Sept 1855	3 Apr 1856
Boston	April 1856	5 May 1856
Mackinac	June 1855	15 May 1856
New York	August 1856	20 Aug 1856
New Yost	May 1856	30 May 1856
Mackinac	June 1856	26 Jun 1856
Mackinac	June 1856	26 Jun 1856
Mackinac	June 1856	26 Jun 1856
New York	Feb 1856	22 Aug 1856
New York	Dec 1855	4 Feb 1856
Boston	May 1856	13 Oct 1856
New York	July 1858	16 Jul 1856
New York	Oct 1855	4 Nov 1856
New York	Mar 1856	18 August 1856
New York	Sept 1856	2 Oct 1856
Boston	April 1856	29 April 1856
New York	August 1866	18 Aug 1856
New York	May 1856	13 August 1856
Green Bay	May 1856	16 July 1856
New York	Dec 1855	17 March 1856
Green Bay	June 1856	15 July 1856
New York	March 1856	19 May 1856
New York	August 1856	18 Aug 1856
New York	April 1856	9 May 1856
Green Bay	Jul 1856	16 Sept 1856
New York	Oct 1855	14 Feb 1856
New York	Nov 1855	11 March 1856
New York	April 1856	3 Oct 1856
New York	April 1856	3 Oct 1856
New York	August 1855	30 Jan 1856
New York	Nov 1855	26 Feb 1856
New York	July 1855	4 Nov 1856
Green Bay	July 1856	14 July 1856
Green Bay	July 1856	14 July 1856
New York	May 1856	23 May 1856
New York	Dec 1855	20 Mar 1856
Boston	April 1856	4 Nov 1856
New York	April 1856	8 May 1856
Boston	April 1856	29 Apr 1856
New York	Jul 1856	8 August 1856
New York	May 1856	4 Sept 1856
New York	Oct 1856	4 Nov 1866
New York	Sep 1855	16 Sep 1856
New York	Sept 1856	19 Nov 1856
New York	Sep 1855	20 Mar 1856
New York	June 1856	9 July 1856
	Feb 1856	12 July 1858
Green Bay	Jul 1856	21 Oct 1850

# Belfries in Flanders

In 1220 French chronicler

Guillaume Le Breton used the name *bel fragio* for the mobile siege-towers used by the crusaders to take Jerusalem.

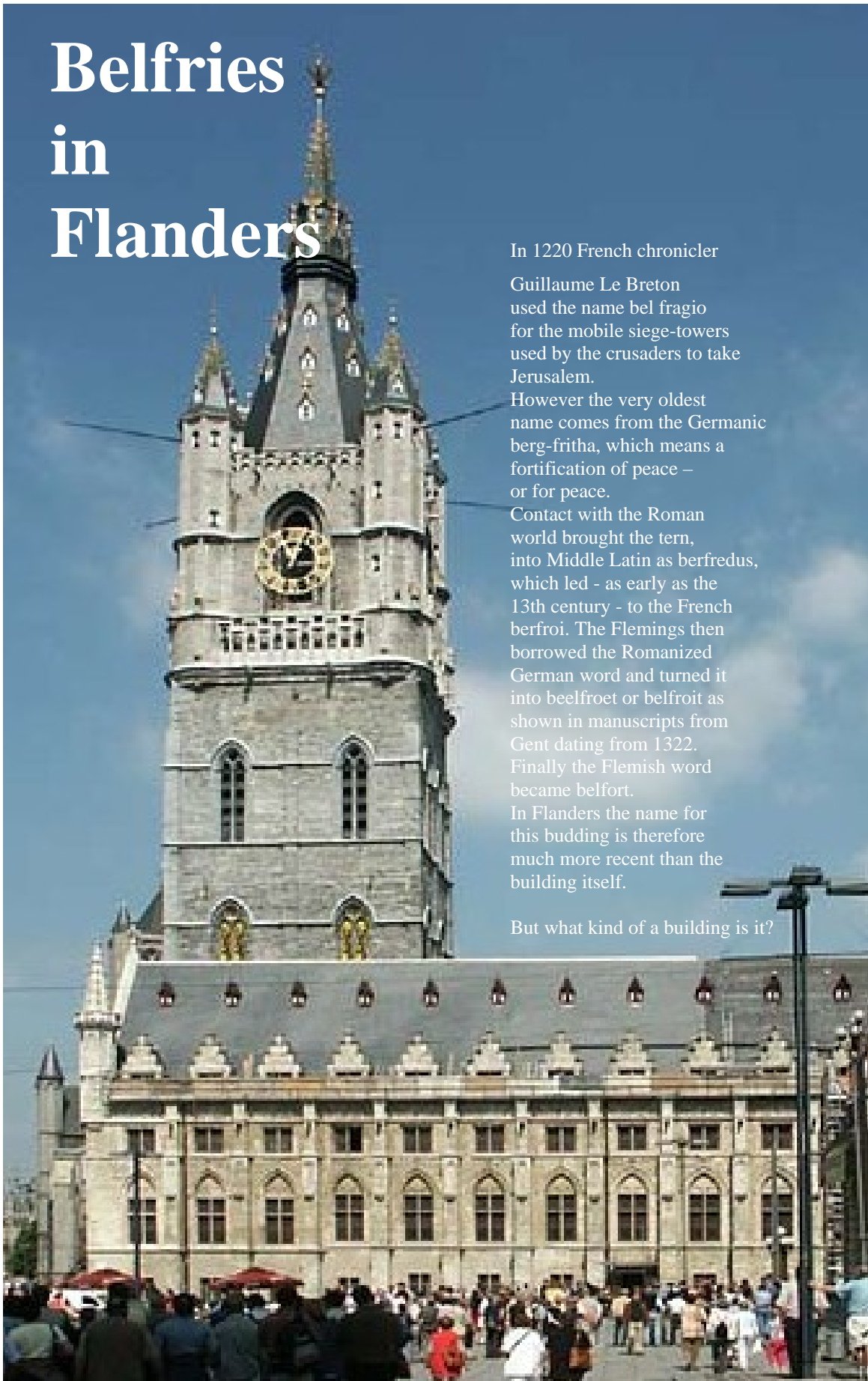
However the very oldest name comes from the Germanic *berg-fritha*, which means a fortification of peace – or for peace.

Contact with the Roman world brought the term, into Middle Latin as *berfredus*, which led - as early as the 13th century - to the French *berfroir*. The Flemings then borrowed the Romanized German word and turned it into *beelfroet* or *belfroit* as shown in manuscripts from Gent dating from 1322.

Finally the Flemish word became *belfort*.

In Flanders the name for this building is therefore much more recent than the building itself.

But what kind of a building is it?



### Legendary guardians of the city

From very early times the tenn 'belfort' was used for the corner-towers of the city walls. Later a similar defensive tower was erected in the city center, as a place for the civic bell. As the burghers of the city became more and more aware of their power, the belfry soon became a symbol of municipal freedom and independence. Later, however it was merely a decorative feature in the city landscape.

In brief it can be said that the belfry played an essential part in the image and life of the city during the 13th and 14th centuries. During the 15th century it became a secondary feature, and a century later no more belfries were being built.

Hence Antwerpen, at the height of its success, did not see the need to build a belfry. One important factor here was that during the 15th and 16th centuries centralized power became more important, and the total independence of the city, once so proudly defended, was largely lost. The obvious conclusion is that belfries - the legendary guardians of the city - were mainly found in cities where there was no strong centralized authority and where city life was flourishing - for example in Flanders. Those who go looking for belfries in Flanders will mainly find themselves touring the provinces of West and East Flanders. The belfries of Brugge and Gent are the oldest and best known, but the others also deserve a mention. We have set them all out in alphabetical order. We should perhaps also point out that many of the best carillon bells in Flanders can be found in belfries.

#### AALST

The Grote Markt of Aalst is dominated by the trinity of the Aldermen's House, the Belfry and the District House. The partly built-in Gothic belfry was erected in 1407-1460. After a fire in 1879 it was restored in 1891

1896. It has a decorative tower and in the octagonal lantern there is a carillon with 52 bells Under the motto of Philip H. 'Nec spe, nec metu' (neither by hope, nor by fear), a burgher and a soldier can be seen standing in late gothic niches dating from 1565, as symbols of the freedom and power of Aalst in former times.

#### BRUGGE

The twin unity of the Belfry and Halls is the most eye catching and memorable feature of this Flemish city which is famous throughout the world. The Belfry dates from about 1300, and it is 83 meters high (you can climb up: there are 368 steps!). On the second floor you can see the former Medieval treasury, which 's now a museum. Up in the tower are the 47 bells of the carillon, weighing a total of 27 tons. The Halls date from various different eras: the imposing front facade dates from 1248, the two long side walls from 1363-1365 and the rear wall and covered galleries from 1551-1566.

#### BRUSSELS

The real belfry in Brussels is St. Michael's Tower, the Sun (ab. 318 feet) high tower of the city hall, one of the most beautiful civic buildings in the Brabantine Gothic style. The substructure was begun in 1401 and completed in about 1420. The decorative spire, on which building work began

in 1449, was crowned in 1455 with a copper statue of St. Michael, the protective patron of the city. In 1695 the center of Brussels was bombed to the ground on the orders of the French king Louis XIV..., but within a space of barely five years these imposing buildings had risen from the ashes again.



#### DENDERMONDE

The crowning glory of the Grote Markt? In Dendermonde is the early Gothic City Hall, formerly the Cloth Hall, which was built in 1336-1340, altered in 1597 and largely destroyed during fighting in September 1914; only the belfry and the walls were left. In 1925 - 1926 the buildings were

restored. The belfry houses a carillon with 49 bells.

#### GHENT

The Gent belfry tower, or at least its lower part, was built in about 1300. Through the centuries it usually had a wooden roof or cover. The existing stone spire was not erected until just before the First World War. Crowning the tower, at a height of 95m (ab.312 feet), you can see a copper dragon. 3.55m (ab.12 feet) long and 1.5m (t. 5 feet) wide, a copy of the original which had braved wind and weather for centuries and was cast in the 14<sup>th</sup> century - so the story goes - 8 prisoner who won his freedom by doing so. In the tower - you can climb to the top with a guide and gain a tremendous panoramic view of the city there is a unique carillon, covering three floors. The largest bell, Klokke Roeland (Roland Bell, weighs 6050 kg. (13,337 lbs) There is a lift from the first to the fourth floor, where the automat drum of the carillon can be found in the clockwork chamber

#### HERENTALS

The city Hall of Herentals was built in the 15th century as a cloth hall, but it burned down in 1512. It was then reconstructed in 1534, when the octagonal brick belfry was also built. It already had a light set of bells as early as 1541 - 1551. The existing carillon has 50 bells, some of which come from the old bells, for example the Mariaklok, which was cast in Mechelen in 1533 and used to serve as a fire and storm warning bell.

#### IEPER

The belfry of Ieper dominates the Grote Markt and forms a remarkable unity with the famous Cloth Hall. The heavy rectangular tower was built in 1200-1230. It has three rows of windows on each side, and is flanked by four slim octagonal towers. The spire is crowned with a dragon (1692). The belfry is home to a carillon with 49 bells. During the First World War the entire city of Ieper was virtually reduced to rubble. The process of reconstruction - following the original plans - took approximately 35 years.

**KORTRIJK**

The belfry stands right in the center of the Grote Markt in Kortrijk, and is mentioned as long ago as 1307, although only the lower part dates from that time. In 1899 the building was restored to its 16th century appearance. It is crowned with a statue of Mercury, the god of commerce. On the eastern side you see Manten (Armand) and Kalle (Katelijne) the well-known copper figures which chime the hours. They are replacements of the original statues, which were stolen after the battle of Westrozebeke in 1382 by French troops and taken to Dijon. Until 1899 the belfry was surrounded by dozens of houses with a shared inner courtyard.

**LIER**

The Grote Markt in Lier - which is a virtual open-air museum of delightful buildings - is dominated by a decorative Gothic belfry tower built in 1369. This building has a weathervane in the form of a comet. It is all that remains of the former Cloth Hall, which was demolished in 1740. The current City Hall was built in its place in 1741, and is a veritable gem of rococo architecture.

**MECHELEN**

The impressive complex of Mechelen's City Hall consists of three parts: a Gothic Cloth Hall, the palace of the Great Council and, between the other two, the belfry whose tower was never completed due to lack of money, and was then simply covered with a saddle roof.

**OUDENAARDE**

On the eve of the Carnival in 1526 the population of Oudenaarde had a mad idea. Everyone rolled up their sleeves to demolish the old, Romanesque Aldermen's House to make room for a new building, which was constructed under the auspices of Brussels architect

Hendrik van Pede, between 1526 and 1537. The new City Hall was to become a pearl of late Brabantine Gothic architecture, with an excellent balance between Burgundian ornamentation and a feeling for proportion which is typical of Flanders. It was crowned with a well proportioned belfry tower 40m high, topped by a 2 m high gilded copper statue of Hansje de Krijger (Hans the Soldier), a soldier figure carrying the city's coat of arms.

**SINT-TRUIDEN**

The old belfry, with a (probably) 12th century substructure and a superstructure in Maasland Renaissance style protrudes from a side-wall of the remarkably decorative City Hall. In 1606 the spire on this tower was destroyed by

a fierce gust of wind, but the existing tower was rebuilt in the same year. The tower houses a carillon with 41 bells.

**TIELT**

In 1128 Tielt was elevated to the status of free town, and the town was given the right to build a belfry. The first building was probably made of wood, and it was replaced in 1275 by a stone tower. It was destroyed in the late 16th century and rebuilding did not take place until 1661. The tower houses a carillon of 35 bells.

**VEURNE**

To the right of the City Hall in Veurne's picturesque Grote Markt stands the Landhuis, which served as a court until 1982. This building is crowned with a partly built-in late Gothic belfry tower, with an octagonal tower and a Baroque three-stepped spire.

**Visiting Belfries in Flanders**

A "Belfries in Flanders Route" would be hundreds of kilometers long, extending all the way from Veurne (West Flanders) to Sint Truiden (Limburg). A West Flanders Belfries Route, forms a convenient pentagon, encompassing Brugge, Tielt, Kortrijk, Ieper and Veurne. For East Flanders the route is more of a square, including Ghent, Dendermonde, Aalst and Oudenaarde. The Belfries in the Brabant and Antwerp area are arranged, as it were, in a line: Brussels., Mechelen, Lier and Herenthals, Sint Truiden is much farther to the East than this profusion of towers.

If you wish to visit the belfries, please contact the VVV/tourist Information Dept in the cities mentioned.

- 9300 Aalst Website: <http://aalst.be/>
- 8000 Bruges: Email: [toerisme@brugge.be](mailto:toerisme@brugge.be)  
Web site: <http://www.brugge.be>
- 1000 Brussels: Email: [tourism.brussels@tib.be](mailto:tourism.brussels@tib.be)  
Web site: <http://www.tib.be/>
- 9200 Dendermonde phone: 052/213956  
Website: [www.dendermonde.be](http://www.dendermonde.be)
- 9000 Gent: E-mail: [toerisme@gent.be](mailto:toerisme@gent.be)  
Website: <http://www.gent.be/gent/english/tourism/>
- 2200 Herenthals: Phone 014/21 9088
- 8000 Ieper: Website: <http://www.ieper.be/eng/>
- 8600 Kortrijk Website: [www.kortrijk.be](http://www.kortrijk.be)
- 2500 Lier Website: <http://www.lier.be/>
- 2800 Mechelen Website: <http://mechelen.be/>
- 9700 Oudenaarde e-mail: [toerisme@oudenaarde.be](mailto:toerisme@oudenaarde.be)  
Website: <http://www.oudenaarde.be/>
- 3800 Sint-Truiden Website: <http://www.sint-truiden.be/NL/start.html>
- 8700 Tielt Website: <http://tielt.be/>
- 8630 Veurne Website: <http://www.veurne.be/>

**Julien Van Remoortere, journalist**

**From:** Flanders - Quarterly published by the Flemish Community- #36 December 1997.

Note from Editor: The preceding article does not talk about the Belfries in Wallonia of which there are several, especially Toumai and Mons have very fine Belfries, having played the same role in their time as the one mentioned above.

**BELGIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
of WEST VIRGINIA**

by Vickie Zabeau-Bowden,  
BAHS Correspondent/Treasurer

The BAHA of West Virginia held its Annual Christmas Party on December 7, 1997 at 2 pm at the Waldornore in Clarksburg, WV. A brief business meeting was held with discussion of old and new business.

This year our Belgian Exchange student is Florence van der Eecken from Brussels, Belg. She is attending her senior year at Robed C. Byrd High School In Clarksburg. We were happy to have Florence attend our Christmas party and tell us of how she and her family celebrate the holidays in Belgium. Florence will be attending our meetings until she returns to Belgium in June. She also had a chance to talk with our French speaking Belgian mentors. It appears that much of the traditions of a Belgian Christmas hasn't changed much from the traditions of our members that came to America 75 years ago. As Belgian-Americans, many of our organization still celebrate Belgian Christmas' in our homes even as second, third and fourth generations.

Prayers and a moment of silence were given to all of our deceased members of the past year. After our meeting everyone enjoyed the Belgian dessert buffet with enough food to feed all the Belgians in the United States!

During the year our members contributed family recipes, which were subsequently gathered in our very own cookbook, spiral-bound for easy use. We have sold all one hundred copies and are ready to go into a second printing. We have decided to make the cookbook available to anyone interested, since we have enjoyed such a demand from non-Belgians in the community as well. The cost of the cookbook with shipping and handling fees is \$ 5.00. This can be mailed to me or to the P0 Box number below:

Vickie Zabeau-Bowden BAHS of WV 240 Buckhannon Ave P0 Box 195, Clarksburg, WV 2B301 Clarksburg, WV 26302. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach us at The above addressee & use our email [BAHSofWV@aol.com](mailto:BAHSofWV@aol.com)

The next meeting of the Belgian-American Heritage Society of WV will be March 14, 1998 at Raymond's Restaurant. This will be a luncheon meeting. If you will be visiting our community, all Belgian-Americans are invited to join us. A Board meeting will be held in February.

We hope that all Belgian-Americans and their families have a very - Bonne Année.

**FRENCH LAKE MINNESOTA:  
A WALLOON COLONY**

by Jean Ducat  
Translated by Pierre Inghels

Ten years ago, at the time I was researching some clues which would have helped me to illustrate the story of the settlers in the New World, coming from Namur, Belgium, I discovered a medical certificate issued to Alexandre FACHAMP, a native of Grand Leez. I learned that he was a handicapped veteran of the Civil War (1861-1865) and that

he was a settler of French Lake, MN, in a community called Albion.

Guided by a Belgo-American of this same state, I devoted my time to the discovery of this community, which size is about as large as two of our cantons in Belgium, at least it was the idea that came to me when I realized that there were about 15 cemeteries.

Since the change-over from the smaller family farm to large scale farming, this region is hopelessly depopulated. It was mid-September, the heat of the "Indian Summer", as my friend called it, was scorching. We had explored about ten cemeteries, without success, when at once we discovered tomb stones set in a well kept grassy plot surrounding the ruins of a chapel on top of a hill that rises behind a lake. As time had worn the area, it is on our knees that we read the inscriptions: Fashant for FACHAMPS, Howart for HOUART, Charley for CHARLET, and other names almost illegible as Pahier (?). Checking our map, we realized that the Lake we called French Lake, exactly where the Walloons and French Canadians started their heroic odyssey, 135 years earlier.

You can imagine my surprise, when a while ago I received about fifteen pages of old letters, all marked from French Lake - Albion, all signed by Jean-Joseph RAHIER, settler of Albion, Wright County, MN. - Nothing in these letters, of which the envelopes were missing, gave us any clue from where in Belgium Jean-Joseph had left, nor at what date. We could make up that at least three of his brothers had remained in Belgium: Pierre who regularly wrote to a settler named Servais, who never answered any letters, maybe out of stinginess, because "he was afraid of spending a few cents" a third one who could be Alexandre or a nephew who lived in Battice, Belgium, as told by the owner of these letters.

These well kept documents cover the period between 1870 to 1878. Jean-Joseph does not talk about the insecurity caused by the Indian attacks of 1862 and 1863, nor about the civil war. From that we concluded he must have settled at French Lake with the second immigration wave in which there were Walloon parents of the vanguard.

As did many literate settlers Jean-Joseph invites his brothers and friends to come and join him in the new world: I can give them all assistance to find good land, not far from mine... I would be so happy to see some of my family come over... winter is hard, but bearable and all activities are then realized with sledges, there are two railroad lines not too far from here... In spring, which is short, the crops grow with a surprising speed... when one wakes up in the morning, one does not recognize the fields anymore, the crops having grown so much, during the night! I have 115 arpents of land (about 60 acres). 10 acres in cultivation, 20 acres in grassland, the rest in forest.. here a few prices: 1000Fr for a horse, 700Fr for a pair of oxen, 200 Fr for a cow... Wheat is only 7Fr for 60 pounds, oats 2Fr for 32

pounds barley at 3 Frs for 48 pounds, potatoes at 3 Frs for 60 pounds, butter at 25 cents a pound...

In 1871, Jean-Joseph talks about a catastrophic fire:

At air place, haystacks burned down..., we fought the fire for eight days and eight nights without rest, at last a rain came and saved us.

To his brother Pierre he wrote: I received greetings from your brother-in-law Jean-Michel Alexandre, who lives in America, through Denise LEUZE, who promised to come and visit us in spring.

The oldest of my children, Pierre is in Texas and he has three children, the second one, Jean has eight children, Marie has (our children, Georges has three children, Suzanne has four children, the youngest one is getting married soon.

Around 1877, Jean-Joseph announced that he sold his farm and was retiring: "Since I left the farm, I got bored a lot and didn't know what to do... so, my wife and I have bought 40 arpents (about 20 acres) of land, we built a new house, have a few animals to take care of and this is enough to occupy us... I received your picture, you will receive cure...

The last letter dated from French Lake on 11 September 1878 and signed by the wife of Jean Joseph Rahier, announcing his death from cancer.

He died on September 1st, after three months of horrible suffering. The widow writes to her brother-in-law: Keep an wilting to us and be An a good health; my children, grand children and myself send you our best greetings...

Ten years ago, when I visited the area, I would have liked to meet a few of the descendants of the Walloons of the region. Advised by the inhabitants of the only house left in the community, we went to a little borough named Annandale. A certain FASHANT who was watching a game on Tv, didn't want to be disturbed and told us to go to an old aunt., who was not home! - So, like throwing a bottle in the ocean in the hope that someone will find it, we scribbled a little note and left it there .... Ten months went by before we received an answer. Our modest little note made the rounds of all the relatives and Julian, great-great-grandson of Alexandre from Grand-Leez mailed us information of great value. He added: It is the first time in our family that we receive a note written by a Belgian!

From : Emigration de Belgique Meridionale XLIV; 4.97

## **Emigration Sheets from Jodoigne Area in Belgium: In Search of Constant Fortemps (1856- 1929)**

written by Jean Jacques Gaziaux

translated by Regine Brindle

continued from B.L. Vol.19#73 - 1997.4

### **The Third Fourth of the XIXth Century.**

#### **1.Constant Fortemps in Jauchelette.**

##### **a.His birth.**

Let us once again go back to the beginning of the story. In 1856, 25th anniversary-year of the beginning of the reign of Leopold I, while the great emigration movement was on many minds, Hubert-Constant Fortemps was born in Jauchelette, on August 10th, at 3pm.

He is the first child of Hortense Fortemps, a 21 year-old single mother, no profession, living with her parents, probably in the old Recom house. In fact it is her father Honore, a 50 year-old small farmer, also day laborer when needed, who declares the birth at the Civil registrar, only 2 hours after the fact. Besides the mother, Victoire (55y), the family is at the time made up of one son, Jean Baptiste (17y) and 2 daughters, Eugenie (15y) and Antoinette (12y). An illegitimate child! In fact, these children are rather numerous in the village at that time, as was showed in the study made by Father Durllet. (\* see "La Moralite a Jauchelette - l'Abbesse", in "The Tables of Brabant", III, 1958, p82-96 \*) In fact they represent 14 % of births during the period 1851-1875. Add to that the premature births, we arrive to the total of 18.5%. Marriages following sexual encounters consist of 2/3 of cases.

##### **b.His childhood.**

When Constant is 2 years old, his aunt Eugenie distances herself from their group: she goes to work in Brussels. Three years later, at the end of October, it's his aunt Antoinette's turn.

This last departure follows the marriage of his uncle Jean-Baptiste by a few months: on 21 May 1861, J-B married Marie-Adolphine Lekenne, daughter of the brewer, a "cousine germaine" about 12 years his elder. Their first child, Victor-Alexandre, born on 11 Jun 1861, would only live 13 days. This uncle would move to Jauche in 1862.

It is not precisely clear where Constant lived during those years. Did the Fortemps family continue to reside Chemin du Cortil a l'Orge after the sale to Mr. Leclercq in the Fall of 1858? Did they move before the eventual sale to Theodore Baugniet, a farmer from Jauchelette, in May 1862. In any case, we find them again in January 1863 when they buy a house with garden, belonging for a short time to Jh Baugniet, no profession, from Brussels. This property, located Chemin de la Dyme, is registered in the name of Fortemps Hortense brother and sisters and of Fortemps-Recom Honore (farmer), in the title of tenants for life.

Finally, in his new neighborhood, the student Constant is alone with his mother and grandparents. It is even probable that he stays alone with his grandparents while Hortense spends 3 months in Malines in the middle of 1865.

In July 1866, Eugenie comes back to the village with her husband and their son; they will settle in Jodoigne in April 1867. We will come back to Antoinette a little later.

##### **c.The village setting.**

The 1856 Census number 111 houses and 559 inhabitants, 78% born in Jauchelette and 20% in the Brabant province. After the first wave of emigration, the overall number of people stays relatively at the same level for 15 years. We know the 1876 numbers which come back to 551 from 505. In 1867, 43% of Jauchettois are less than 20 years old. In Constant Fortemps's age group -children between 10 and 15 y old - there are 27 boys and 22 girls. At that time, only 7 children are left in Jauchelette

of the 15 born in 1856, among them Constant; 4 are dead, 4 others have emigrated.

In this rural village, day laborers, who are mainly agricultural workers, remain the most numerous, even though their ranks have cleared: there are only 80 registered in 1873, which represents a cut in half in 25 years. On the other hand the number of farmers has increased and is around 20, according to the registers.

The village has a variety of workers: 3 millers, 2 brewers, 1 blacksmith, 3 carpenters, 2 coopers, 1 wheelwright, 1 mechanic, 2 masons, 1 plasterer, 2 cobblers, 7 seamstresses, 1 tailor. Also 1 butcher, 2 poultry stores, 2 ragmen, and 5 tavern owners (officially registered). Let's not forget 1 midwife.

Jauchette can also take pride in the presence of Maka: an industrial type enterprise belonging to the Baugniet family. At the death of their father Antoine, 3 sons cooperated to run their brewery, their flour mill and their case-shot smith, the famous Maka, which employs several workers. The Baugniet family is the most influential family in Jauchette: 3 of its members succeed each other as mayor from 1855 to 1888; besides, the town council registers a not on Oct 1st 1873 saying that Theophile and Jerome are eligible to be listed with the Chambers Voters.

The city officials, who already take care of maintaining the roads, and discarding the trash, are told to build, "without any delay", a community school with housing for the teacher. This teaching job will fall to Jean Jh Mahaux who will be nominated in 1864. Although he has no certification, he has been teaching in Jauchette since 1840, to everybody's satisfaction. This father of 10 (5 of whom died at a young age) must have been one of the important people in the village, since he adds to his functions those of church clerk, sexton, wax producer, grave-digger, and insurance agent. He will also organize an adult school in 1867. His task as teacher is far from light. The number of children who receive a free education, at the city's cost in 1870-1871, is 97: 46 boys and 51 girls!

The public officials must also watch over the good health of their fellow-citizens. In 1850, an epidemic of typhoid fever will kill 10 homeless people. To put a stop to this plague caused by a lack of drinking water, the city council will decide to dig public wells in several neighborhoods, but only beginning in 1865. Five years earlier, stating that the funds are unavailable, the council refused "to put up a well or a fountain in the Fortemps farm neighborhood."

#### **d.His adolescence.**

Now we can better envision the village of Jauchette as Constant knew it, with its notables, its daylaborers, its many children who learned about life, one season, together with its works, at the time.

We again find the Fortemps family in 1867, on the new population registers. The profession declared: Honore, farmer, Victoire, housewife, Hortense, seamstress, Marie-Antoinette, ex-servant (returned from Brussels). Constant is listed under his first given name: Hubert.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1869, Hortense, still single, gives birth to Pauline (Paula) - Marie, on 10 April 1869 in Jauchette.

She will be called Lina. Constant is now about 13 years old.

The teenager finishes grade school, a little late it seems, but he is ranked among the best in 1871, in a contest reserved to the grade school students of the Jodoigne area. We do not know whether or not this young man furthered his schooling.

Then, on 24 September 1873, a second sister is born, Ismerie-Josephine, who will go by the name of Julia. Constant leaves.

#### **2. Constant Fortemps' two departures.**

a.First To Brussels.

Three days after Ismerie's birth, on Saturday September 27th, 1873, the city clerk registers Constant's declaration of departure to Brussels; he would be taken off the population registers the following November 6th.

Constant, now 17, leaves his birth place at the beginning of Fall, probably the week before the kermesse, which traditionally takes place the 1st Sunday in October. Off he goes, carrying a suitcase or just a bundle, with the group of people leaving for the week: they cross the countryside to la Ramee, taking shortcuts through harvested fields, and leaving on their left the wood St Pierre, they make their way to the Huppaye train station. \* the railroad line between Tirlemont and Ramillies, going through Huppaye and Jodoigne opened in 1866; its extension Ramillies-Namur in 1869. Tirlemont was already tied to Brussels and Liege since 1837.\*

We do not know much of Constant's stay in Brussels, except what we found on the population registers of Brussels, where he is registered, on 6 November 1873, as a railroad employee. Constant lived at #300 Chaussee d'Etterbeek, not far from the Leopold Neighborhood train station, along with several other bachelors of which he is the youngest. These registers also note the mobility of diverse origin as well as social situation.

At the end of 1874, Constant has most certainly left that neighborhood. In fact, on 8 June 1875, he is taken off the Brussels Population registers, with a mention "been gone for 7 months; no forwarding address".

Let's take a few minutes to speak of Brussels. On January 1st, 1874, 180,000 people live in Brussels, and the suburbs double that number. They just finished putting an arch over the Senne river, and the building of the Bourse; work on the Palais de Justice is in progress.

King Leopold II reigns since 1865. After two decades of liberal predominance, the catholic party are back in power since 1870: they will keep it for 8 years, under the tutelage of J.Malou. Political life then goes through a pull between the extremist wings of both parties and deal mostly with electoral and linguistic problems (which progressively satisfies the Flemish concerns).

Leopold II's Belgium is one of the first industrial powers of the time. Many inventors live there, like Zenobe Gramme, who invented the dynamo which

allows the use of electricity as a motored power. Our railroad network is on the verge of becoming the most dense in the world; it has particularly gained in the area of concessions given by the State to private enterprises. However, toward the end of the 1860s, Napoleon III's attempt to control Belgian companies determines a change in the government's orientation, as they strive to remain neutral towards the great powers. From now on, the State would proceed to systematically buy back the concessions. One of the first lines which was bought back was the one between Tirlemont and Namur.

During Constant's stay in Brussels, the press reports the beginnings of G.Nagelmackers in the management of his "Compagnie Internationale de Wagons-Lits". The New World experience is also at the base of the development of "Omnibus and railroads (said to be American)"

The destruction of the old registers of the S.N.C.B does not allow us to know exactly what position Constant held, any more than the length of time he worked there. Railroad workers (who held any of 10 different positions) held some prestige, but only received modest salaries. This was enough to be tempted to go seek your fortune elsewhere...

#### b. To America.

The young Jauchettois would probably not stay there over a year. At 18, he makes a decision that will prove to be a big turning point in his life: emigrating to America.

Many reasons pushed him to that decision, of course. His departure for Brussels, like both of his aunts', already represents a big step. Working for the railroad, he is in contact with people who move, who, like him, are more or less cut off from their village roots. In his case, we can add his status of illegitimate child, whose mother continued to be promiscuous, which puts distance between her and her son, who is now a young man. But foremost there is the menacing fact of military service, in case of poor luck in the draft lottery.

Military service lasts from 28 months to 4 years, depending on the regiments; it is longer in the cavalry for example. The living conditions are relatively poor (discipline, lodging, food...). Conscription is done through a lottery. In 1871, Leopold II had already asked that personal military service be mandatory, but in vain, the Right wing refuses. So Constant puts distances between him and old Europe, maybe even as early as 1874, but probably during the first half of 1875.

One can imagine him announcing the news to his grandparents, who had raised him. What emotions! As for his mother... he probably does not know she is pregnant once again. And when Leocadie is born, on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 1875, Constant surely has already been walking on American soil for several months. We know that Constant Fortemps lives in Illinois in 1876.

As all Belgians were expected to register in December of the year they turn 19 in the town where either parent resides, a member of Constant Fortemps, a Belgian citizen living in the USA, a member of his family has to register him in Jauchette in December 1875. Rich conscripts had the ability to buy a replacement. In 1876, the War Dept set the price for a replacement at 1,600Fr (\* note that this is

equivalent to the price of a horse, while a teacher's yearly salary is 1,000F)

In any case on the day of the draft, which is feared by all, Constant is safely in the America, of which the people of Belgium have heard such fantastic stories, safe from the lottery draft in Belgium and from military service in the US since conscription is only done occasionally there. Now we will be able to hear what life the New World is really all about: through the letters he sent home. (to be continued)

### WW II MEMORIES from an unexpected Corner: A little Belgian Town Treasures Its Memories of one Fearless Soldier

By Greg Jaffe - Staff reporter Wall Street J.

Submitted by Walt Sonn.viII. (Gaitersburg, MD) - "Half Flemish - Half Walloon = 100% Belgian



James W. Carroll in 1944

On Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944 James W. Carroll's Harley-Davidson rumbled over the ancient cobblestone streets here and came to a

stop in the town Square. For the 10,000 citizens of this small city on the French-Belgian border, his coming meant the end of the war. Just ahead of the Allied advance, the Germans were fleeing, ending four years of occupation.

Within minutes of the lone soldier's arrival, his motorcycle was covered with flowers, his uniform soaked in wine and his face scarlet from the kisses of young women. In the excitement, someone snapped his picture. Someone else wrote down his name.

"When we saw the American it was an explosion of joy," explains Joseph Braibant. Says his wife, Lina "For everyone else, it was just another day. But for us it was freedom."

Then, as quickly as the handsome young man had arrived, he disappeared. And weeks later, word came that he had been killed as his battalion moved toward Germany. In the years that followed, Mr. Carroll's picture was sold in a hat shop on the town square. The story of his ride was taught in schools. The fearless soldier was remembered each year in a Mass.

A half-century passed, and he became legend. André Dumond, a tax driver, now dead, would speak of pressing through the crowd to hand the hero a flask of cognac that had survived the war; Mr. Carroll drained it in one long gulp.

Francine Telle, who was 20, remembers grabbing Mr. Carroll by the arm, and showing him the bodies of three Belgian resistance fighters killed just hours earlier.

Those who were children swear that the first chocolate and chewing gum they tasted came from him. The young women of Peruwelz grew up and told their children about dancing with the dashing American; the young men remembered riding on the back of his motorcycle.

Then, three years ago, history gave Peruwelz an unexpected jolt. While planing to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the slain soldier's historic ride, towns people set out to find his grave. - Instead, they found him.

Their discovery, and what came next, shows how a myth can be fashioned from a patchwork of memories and a few faded photographs.

Although the man in the snapshot clearly is Mr. Carroll, it is hard to know exactly what did happen the cool fall day he rolled into Peruwelz. His own recollections aren't vivid; and even some people here concede that nostalgia and fantasy, as much as fact, have contributed to the story of Peruwelz's liberation. Would expectations be dashed by his return?

Home in Brewton, Ala., Mr. Carroll, who was recently divorced after 18 years of marriage, shares a one-bedroom apartment with Cherie, a poodle with nails painted red. The 76-year-old Mr Carroll meets his friends each morning for breakfast at McDonald's and volunteers at a local Head Start class, where he plays Santa each Christmas. Once or twice a week, he goes to The American Legion for a beer. "I don't really drink anymore, but it's awful lonesome by yourself," he says.

In Peruwelz, the joy and optimism that followed liberation gave way to hard times. The textile factories and coal mines that once fired the economy closed, and today unemployment hovers around 13%.

Every year, though, the town raises money from retired seamstresses, shop keepers and the local convent to fly Mr. Carroll back to Belgium. "H. is a great symbol of liberation" says Geoffrey Bertoux, an engineering student who hails from here.

Before he was a hero, Mr. Carroll was cannon fodder. As a reconnaissance scout for the US. Annys 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the young private rode ahead of the tanks to scout for Germans. Most men doing that job didn't last long. Piano wire flung across streets cut many young scouts in half. Sniper fire killed others.

In August 1944, Mr. Carroll's unit was ordered to the Belgian border. The soldiers marched as far as the French, town of Condé, hiding out in a nearby forest on the night of September 2. The next morning, the unit continued its push into Belgium, with Mr. Carroll riding ahead.

The ride that brought liberation to Peruwelz was just another stop for Pvt Carrolls' unit. His hazy memories includes being shot at by retreating Germans, briefly hiding in an abandoned storefront, and then the cheers. "For 50 years, I never gave Peruwelz a thought," Mr. Carroll says.

On his knees in his apartment, he ruffles through a box of pictures, plaques and newspaper clippings from his three recent trips back to Peruwelz. He tosses them on the floor in heap by his bed.

"The Return of Our Hero", reads the headline from one paper. Soon, the newspaper is covered by a stack of posters, programs and menus from banquets in his honor. Finally, one grainy, black-and-white photograph catches his attention. In it, Mr. Carroll, a cigarette clenched in his teeth, sits on a motorcycle surrounded by dozens of young women and children. He holds the old photograph at a distance

until it comes into foam. 'I must have been drunk, because that's the only time I ever smoked,' he laughs.

Mr. Carroll, who later fought in Korea, stayed in the army until 1965. having risen to the rank of sergeant first class. After that, he worked in the library at the University of Minnesota, got married, but remained childless. At age 69, he retired to his native Brewton. Today he flashes the same broad smile of his youth, but the blue-eyed vet is now bald. He has a faded tattoo of a heart and dagger on his forearm, a tribute to a woman he met in Texas named Ernestine he lost touch with long ago. You can barely make out her name.

As he shuffles out to his white 1995 Chevrolet Monte Carlo for a trip to McDonald's, Cherie runs circles around him, yipping at nothing in particular. The dog hops up on the car seat her gray, 4 fuzzy head barely visible over the dashboard. The car starts on the second try, and the two are off for the \$1.12 biscuits and gravy. Finding Mr. Carroll wasn't easy for Peruwelz. As in 1994, the town prepared for a 50th-anniversary celebration of the liberation, Pierre Deprez an economics professor, and José Delplanque, the city manager, were given the task of finding Mr. Carroll's grave. By one account, he died nearby in Liege. Another said he was killed in The Ardennes forest during the Battle of the Bulge after wiping out 20 Germans.

For a year, Messrs. Deprez and Delplanque combed the Allied cemeteries in Europe, wrote the US. Embassy and worked with a veterans' group associated with the Second and Fifth Armored Divisions in the US. Still, the big anniversary passed with no grave and no hero.

Then in March 1995, using a computer disk that contained US. names, phone numbers and addresses, the two men on a hunch began, to seek out not a dead soldier, but a living one. They tracked down 87 men named James W. Carroll. Each of them was sent a letter and a picture of the soldier on the motorcycle. "We don't exactly know what happened to James William Carroll after he left our town", the letter read. "Many people say he was killed a few days after. Others say six months, Nothing is sure.... We need your help."

Mr. Carroll was watching CNN when he tore open his letter and saw the picture of himself. There were a lot of small towns and a lot of celebrations, and I can't say I remember your town, he apologized in a letter to Messrs. Deprez and Delplanque. "But I can definitely say that is my picture."

It was a few days before Easter when his letter arrived. At church a holiday banner reading 'He Is Alive, Hallelujah' hung over the pulpit the sign pertaining to Christ took on a new meaning. 'Everyone who saw it thought of James.' says Jacques Nachez, a jeweler. 'It was like a ghost was returning. It was a resurrection! Six weeks later, Mr. Carroll found himself standing in the flickering light of Peruwelz's 18<sup>th</sup> century cathedral, with a chorus doing an off-tempo rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. Above him was the Easter banner, this time actually intended for him. 'This is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to me he said at a reception with the mayor a few days later.

For he next three weeks, Mr Carroll appeared in parades, signed hundreds of autographs and fed the fish with Prince

Lamoral De Ligne at the 12<sup>th</sup> century Castle of Beloeil. "That prince is the nicest guy," says Mr. Carroll.

The celebration gets bigger every year. Last year, the fire and police departments put out calendars with Mr. Carroll's picture on them, and the city kicked things off with a convoy of more than 100 restored World War II vehicles. Bruno Foucart, a baker, spent 27 hours preparing a 3-foot high chocolate replica of Mr. Carroll on his motorcycle. "I wanted to give him something chocolate since he brought chocolate when he arrived in 1944," says Mr. Foucart.

Mr Carroll is remembered on a plaque in the town square that proclaims: "James William Carroll is the embodiment of our recovered freedom." Raymond Fougnyes, a retired coal miner and truck driver, keeps a picture of Mr. Carroll on the wall over his fireplace next to a portrait of Belgium's King Albert and a simple wooden cross. "I love him," says Mr. Fougnyes. "He is a hero"

To those not from Peruwelz Mr. Carroll's fame is somewhat dumbfounding. Rudy Cre-Van Dooren, an executive with a cement company in nearby Condé, wonders whether Mr. Carroll truly was the first Allied soldier in Peruwelz. But he also concedes that it doesn't matter. "For the last 50 years, people in his town have been fantasizing about the man in that picture," he says. "For them, James is like Santa Claus. It doesn't matter if he was a real hero or not. People believe that he is."

Mr. Carroll, meanwhile, is careful not to trample on Peruwelz' dreams. Although the annual three-week trip leaves him exhausted, he has never canceled an appearance. He also is cautious with the town's memories. He doesn't really remember drinking a bottle of cognac when he passed through town 53 years ago, and he can't recall bringing chocolate. But he doesn't mention these things in Peruwelz. In any event, because he speaks no French, and few in the town speak English, Mr. Carroll rarely is caught saying the wrong thing.

Each year he stops by Claire Praet's TV and radio shop on the edge of town. Ms. Praet's mother is widely thought to have been the first to greet Mr. Carroll, and Mrs. Praet, 20 years old in 1944, remembers him well. They look through old pictures of the war and share a glass of wine. But they don't speak the same language. "I don't know how we communicate," she says. "But we do. We both experienced the same things."

More and more, Mr. Carroll finds himself swept up in the town's emotion for reasons he can't quite express. As he was leaving Peruwelz last spring, Yvon Diels, a tall, thin man with brown hair and a narrow mustache, pressed an old US. Armed Services recording of Woody Herman and his orchestra playing "Out of this World" into Mr. Carroll's hands and wept. "I don't know why he wanted me to have the record," says Mr. Carroll, turning the heavy disk over in his hands. "But I had to get out of there before I started squalling, too"

After three trips in 2 ½ years, Mr. Carroll still gets hundreds of letters from Belgium at Christmas and on his birthday. A friend in town, who is from Quebec helps him translate the French. Each letter he writes begins, "Dear Friend." "I don't know 90% of the people who write, but I always write them back," Mr. Carroll says.

He has turned down a number of invitations to move to Peruwelz. "I know those people would do anything in the world for me," he says. "But am not the dumbest bunny in the world. I know that fame is fleeting."

Recently he bought a videocassette recorder so he can watch tapes of his interviews on Belgian and French television. And he is already preparing for his next trip, in May. By skipping lunches, he has lost 50 pounds. I've told everyone I would come in my uniform, and I don't want to disappoint them."

## To & From

To Ginie Whitehill (Seattle, WA) - Happy 93rd Birthday - all our very best wishes for many more healthy and happy years! These wishes come to you from all The members of The Belgian Researchers!!!!

From Audrey Meydenbauer (Issaquah, WA) : Thanks for a great publication. Special love to the both of you and also to my wonderful friend, Mary Ann Defnet!

From Charlotte Rogers (Jeanette, PA): Claude Malobert is an angel! He has done scads & scads of research for me & has found all kinds of records. He has also translated notary records, which I am thrilled about one such record showed the notary at the deathbed of Marie Josephe Bacq and he wrote down what he said. This was the late 1700!!! I also have copies of some of my ancestors signatures-What a joy! Thank you, Claude!?

To Jean Duwez (Palatine, IL) - Thank you so very much for all the material you sent us, especially the book The Belgians in Ontario, A History, by Joan Magee. This is a valuable addition to our library.

To Hilda Zabeau (Clarksburg WV): Congratulations to all the members of the Belgian-American Heritage Society of West-Virginia on the edition of their very own cookbook, of which you were so nice to send me a personal copy! Thank you so very very much! We know that the work of your late husband (our friend) René Zabeau is in good hands and that the BAHS of WV will continue to grow. I very much liked the statement on the first page of The cookbook: United to celebrate and preserve our Belgian heritage out of the Past to the Present and into the Future and was utterly touched when I saw my own mother's recipe of her Spring soup in there! "Moeke's Lent. Soepke" - Again. thank you Hilda, and good luck to you, your family and the members of The society, Leen

From Kay Brusati : (San Anselmo, CA) This pull-out system for the renewal form is a great idea!

From Margaret Decker. (St Paul, MN) My friend Eloise Ness (member# 554) is quite ill. Possibly you could pray for her ... Thank you for notifying us, Margaret, we hope she is well by now and wish her the best of health for 1998.

From Leonard Penis : (Burgettstown, PA) I wish to renew my membership and to send a gift membership to my uncle, Foch Persching Pensis, of California. Foch was born on armistice day 11 November 1918 at Charleroi PA and was named after the Generals of that time. He also was a

member of the US Army in WWII, serving in the E.T.O. and participated in the Game of the Bulge ... Great Guy~!

From Denise Cork, (Watseka, IL) I enjoyed reading the article "In Search of Constant Fortemps". I did quite a bit of research several years ago for Blanche Ferris, a good friend. She is a direct descendant of Fortemps. I always look forward to receiving Belgian Laces. Keep up the good work!

**From Jack Le Chien** : (Belleville, Ill) just a brief note to let you know that one of the 1997 issues of Laces helped me a lot in my research. One of the passenger lists from the 1880's caught my eye and I found the name "Lechiou", which is not close to Lechien, but the initials fit the names of my great grandfather, great grandmother and their children. The dates also coincided with their arrival in this country. The lesson here is to watch for variant spellings, which I have found on other occasions as well. Continue the fine work, and my thanks to Fr. Jean Ducat for his dedication in helping us find our families roots.

Ed. note: Congratulations to you for continuing to read in spite of the apparent difference in the name. For your information, in French a very acceptable word for Chien (dog) is 'chiot' (puppy). It is very possible that it, Walloon dialect this would have been 'chiou'. Maybe your great grandfather did not like that, or wanted to change his name upon arrival in the States!

**From Georgette Van Goey-Harding** (North Liberty IN) I had not heard of your Belgian Laces until Dolores O. Young Fallon called me and the way from Portland, Oregon. Her son saw my name and phone number somewhere as a contact to Georges Picavet. No, I have not heard from them either since his visit here in my home, upon their visit to the States, looking for information about immigrants from the Waasland. My parents were married in Kruikeke (home of the Picavets).

I have made two trips to Belgium. When I'm there I feel as if I have come home ... What a beautiful country and wonderful people ! Thank you for sending me the 1997 Laces. Enclosed find my renewal check to, 1998! Tot ziens Georgette.

PS. My maiden name is spelled Van Goey - not Van Goeij as in "Welcome New Members" 1997-4. *Sorry to have misspelled your name, Georgette!*

From Denise Shindle (Virginia Beach) I just finished sending off another year of membership for the Belgian Researcher Newsletter. Never have I been more satisfied with a genealogical newsletter before. I have received an immense amount of help from Sylvere van Dael in Belgium and would like to thank him for all the ancestors' names, dates, and the vast information that he has sent to me on my grandmothers side: Blanchaert, Spriet, Quintyn.

## Queries

**98. 344 - Fumal** - Am looking for more information on a Civil War veteran named Henri Fumal, son of François and Clementine Francart, b. 1845/46 in Jandrenouille, Belgium. The family emigrated on the Francis FB Cutting, sailing

from Antwerp and landing in New York 28 April 1858. In 1860 the family was living in Appleton, WI and Clementine had died. On 15 December 1801 Henri Fumal (AKA Freemal, Femal) enlisted in Company B. 58<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry at age 15 or 16! Henri was discharged for illness on 18 April 1882. What happened to him? Did he die, or re-enlist in another regiment? No record has been found of Henri Fumal returning to Wisconsin. John H. Mertens - 1114 Juneau Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216-1130

**96. 345 - Wallot** - Emile and Charlotte- believed to have been born in Belgium or France Date of birth of Emile unknown - Charlotte b. May 1853. The 1900 census for Washington County PA, lists Charlotte will, her four children Paul, Zena, Amelia and Louis.. We know that she came to this county in 1891 with her first three children and on a probably her husband Emile. Charlotte is listed as widow in the 1900 census. Believe Emile died sometime between 1892 and 1900. Louise, the only one of the children about whom we find records later on. was born in Chalford, PA in 1892. Other than Louise, who was my wife's grandmother, there is no trace of the family after the 1900 census. No death records, marriage records, cemetery records, wills or other family records can be found to tell what happened to this family. The 1900 census lists Charlotte as being married for about 22 years before Emile died. Microfilm was hard to read here. It is possible that they returned to the homeland after Emile died, but before Louise was married in 1909. Louise's marriage license lists Albert Selva as her guardian, giving her permission to marry at age 17. George E. Livingston - 100 Derby Cr. - Weirton, WV. 26062

**98. 346 - Pollentier/Lievrouw/Maddelein** The grandfather of a friend of mine, whose Pollentiers family settled in Beloit, WI - Camille Lievrouw, whose family settled in St. Charles, IL. coming from Brugge, Belg; Another grandfather Maddelein, whose family settled in East Moline IL. Can anyone help with these lines? We realize the info is fuzzy, but maybe someone in our membership will have some information that can get us on the road to discovery Regine Brindle / 495 - E. Fifth Street - Peru, IN 46970

**99.347 - Bosse DeWaele** Victorie b. 19 Oct 1869 in Perwez, Belg. daughter of Eugene et Desire Bosse. She married Jean (John) DeWaele. Am looking for her birth and death certificate listing place and date. Probably around 1906-07. Eugene d. 6 Sept. 1916 in Portland, or Desire. d. 3 March 1912 in Salem, Or. Leone Pick - 3939 Crooked Mile Rd. Merritt Island, FL 32962

**98.348** - I'm looking for any Belgian families who may have moved to the Western States but once lived in or near Alexandria, LA. Many Belgians came through the Port of New Orleans and stayed here a short time, then moved to Washington and Oregon. Thank You!  
Jerome and Audrey C. Vandereyden - 3207 Hynson St. Alexandria. LA 71301-5428

**98.349 - Bouffieux/Bertrand** - I am still hoping somebody will be able to find the village(s) of the following Jean Joseph Bouffieux b. abt. 1815 in Belgium, son of Joseph -

manied Stephanie Bertrand in Belgium. b. ab.1819 in Belgium. Both died and are burried Tonet, Kewaunee City. WI , St. Martens Cemetery. Audrey Meydenbauer - 22414 SE 42nd Terrace, Iseaquah, WA 98027

Joseph b. 26 september 1840. Came to the Chicago area around 1869. Jear, Tilmant - Chsée de Nivelles. 68, B-5140 Sombreffe, Belgium

**99.350 - Tilmant** - Am looking for The descendents of Jean-Joseph b. 16 march 1837 and Maximilien

### Naturalization Records: City of Greeley, Weld County, Colorado.

Submitted by Evelyn Ann Santilli

This list is extracted from Naturalization records in Colorado, from Belgian Immigrants receiving their Citizenship in the City of Greeley, CO. between the years of 1914 and 1964. Many of these were coal miners. Unfortunately, they do not list the place of origin, just "Belgium".

Name	Birth	Arrived	Naturalized
ARYS Camiel Pierre,	b.Belgium 13 May 1887	Arr. NewYork 15 Feb 1917	Nat. 25 Jun 1954
CARTON Camille,	b.Belgium 24 Dec.1885	Arr. NY 2 May 1907	Nat. 7 Nov 1918
CITRON Edmond,	b.Belgium 9 Oct 1867	Arr NY 28 Sept 1887	Nat. 4 Apr 1931
CITRON Vesta,	b.Belgium 22 Sep 1879	Arr. NY 28 Sept 1887	Nat. 4 Apr 1931
CNOCKAERT Kamiel,	b.Belgium 11 Nov 1894	Arr. NY 1 Mar 1911	Nat 24 Feb 1917
CNOCKAERT Ernest,	b. Belgium 14 Jul 1884	Arr NY 11 Mar 1906	Nat. 26 Sep 1914
CNOCKAERT Oscar,	b. Belgium 7 Sep 1888	Arr NY 2 May 1907	Nat. 26 Sep 1914
DE CEUNINCK Osker	b. Belgium 8 Mar 1885	Arr. NY 7Jul 1911	Nat. 26 Sept.1925
DE GRYSE Arthur	b. Belgium 15 Oct 1884	Arr NY 16 Nov 1904	Nat 30 Sep 1916
DE GRYSE Camiel,	b. Belgium 10 Dec 1882.	Arr. NY 6 Apr 1903	Nat 26 Feb 1918
DE GRYSE Edmond	b. Belgium 15 Feb 1887	Arr. NY 4 Sep 1910	Nat. 24 Feb 1917
DE PORTER Arthur,	b. Belgium 6 Aug 1896	Arr.NY 31 Oct 1910	Nat. 25 Sep 1920
DE PORTER Camiel	b. Belgium 8 Jul 1873	Arr No record in NY	Nat. no date listed
DE SAMBER Elisa	b. Belgium 17 Nov 1892	Arr NY 17 Sep 1912	Nat.10 Jan 1947
DE VISSCHER Henry	b. Belgium 1 Nov 1890	Arr NY 16 Oct 1903	Nat 29 Sep 1917
DU PONT Jerome	b. France 17 Dec 1903	Arr NY 29 Aug 1920	Nat. 30 Jun 1928
GUESQUIERE Achille,	b. Belgium 13 Apr 1881	Arr NY 1 Dec 1911	Nat. 28 Sep 1918
GUESQUIERE Arthur,	b. Belgium 6 Jun 1890	Arr NY 14 Apr 1911	Nat. 24 Feb 1917
GILNAY Jean Louis,	b. Belgium 23 Jan 1881	Arr P.H/MI 26 Apr 1913	Nat.6 Jan 1945
GILNAY Michele,	b.Belgium 20 Apr 1884	Arr. PH/MI 26 Apr 1913	Nat.6 Jan 1945
HOOGERS Julia M.,	b.Belgium 14 Jul 1929	Arr. LA/CA 5 Mar 1959	Nat. 26 Jun 1964
HOOZEE Octave J.,	b.Belgium 20 Apr 1881	Arr Boston/MA. May 1906	Nat.2 Jan 1941
KINDT Albert Jos.,	b Belgium 26 Sep 1901	Arr.NY 23 Aug 1926	Nat. 31 Mar, 1944
KINDT Dennis J.	b.Belgium 5 Apr 1928	Arr NY 23 Aug 1926	Nat. 28Jun 1946
KINDT Zulma	b.Belgium 4 Jul 1903	Arr. NY 23 Aug. 1926	Nat. 28 Jun 1948
LAMBERT Jules	b.Belgium 5 Feb 1881	Arm NY 17 Ap 1905	Nat. 30 Sep 1916
VAN GRAEFSCHPE Adolf	b.Belg. 20 Jul 1881	Arr NY 23 Apr 1909	Nat 30 Sep 1916
VAN GRAEFSCHPE Floribert,	b Belg. 4 Feb 1885	Arr NY 23 Apr 1909	Nat. 25 Sep 1915
VAN GRAEFSCHPE Leon	b.Bel. 20 May 1880	Arr NY 3 Mar 1908	Nat 25 Sep 1915
VAN HOECKE Jules	b. Belgium 29 Jul 1888	Arr NY 24 May 1909	Nat. 9 May 1917
VAN HOOFTSTADT Theresa Maria	b.Belg 29 Sep 1877	Arr NY 3 Sep 1907	Nat 1 Jul 1944
VERGOTE Camiel	b.Belgium 26 Jul 1875	Arr Portland/ME 1 Apr 1905	Nat. 30 Sep 1916
VINCKIER Morris	b Belg. 31 Jul 1892	Arr NY 3 Jan 1911	Nat. 24 Feb 1917
WINCKEL Leon	b. Belgium 4 Oct 1893	Arr NY 13 May 1907	Nat. No date given

My family's ancestry is very old said one club member trying to impress the group. 'We can be traced back to the early kings of Europe! Then, turning to a lady sitting nearby, she asked: And you, deary how old is your family?' - 'I realLy don't know, replied the lady with a sweet smile. All our family records were lost in the great flood.'

**BELGIANS LISTED IN THE 1900 WARWICK and 1910 WOONSOCKET CENSUSES**

copied by Micheline Gaudette

Names	Year of Arrival	Place	CENSUS
HOSTE Joseph 44, Delphie 84	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
HUART August 25, Catherine 24 1886      Warwick, RI	1900		
HUART Charles 48, Marie 42, Nicolas 25, Frank 21, Victor 18	1886	Warwick, RI	1900
HUART John 52, Mary 52, Alphonse 10, John 16, Eugene 12	1876	Warwick, RI	1900
HUBERT Ernest 35, Marie 28, Lucie 5, Lydia 3, Felix 2	1892	Warwick, RI	1900
HUBERT Joseph 36, Elizabeth 34, Marie 12, Victor 8	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
HUBET G...33, Lucy 30, Anna 8, WALTER Mary 85 mother-in-law	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
JACART Emile 30, Irma 28, Louis 8, Denise 4, Emilie 1/12	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
JACOB Eugene 35, Jeanne 37	1894	Woonsocket, RI	1910
JACQUE Edward 31, Ada 28, Joseph (father) 69, Ernest (brother) 17	1892	Warwick, RI	1900
JACQUET Catherine 55 widow, Berthe 18, Fernand 16	1886	Woonsocket, RI	1910
JERSIN Alphonse 32, Josephine 36, Jenie 2	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
KAIRIS Leonard 36, Mary 20	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
KELLEUR Edward 36, Mathilde 35	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
KOPELLE Pierre 83, Marie 38	1902	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LADREAU Jean 27 boarder with Aubin family	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LAGACE Leonie 37	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LAMBAER Desire 53, Sabine 54, Germaine 25, Julie 22, Justine 20, Joseph 18, Angel 17, Orie 16, Madeleine 13, Philomene 11	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LAMBERT Walter 42, Mary 35, Margaret 14, Mary 13, Libert 11, Jean 8, Julie 4	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1810
LANCHAY? Ernest 56, Victorine 56. Ernest 24, Argin?	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LANGE Alfred father-in-law of FUGERE Remy, 57	1892	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LANRET? Julien 34 brother in law of SERVAIS Dieudonne	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LAURENT Louis 54, Seraphine 41	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LEBLANCHE Jules 33, Delphine 30, Adonis 2, Delphine 3112	1899	Warwick, RI	1900
LEBOCQ Madeleine 15 step-daughter of GIGUERE Chambord	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LECOMTE Seraphine mother-in-law of DOSSIN Emilien	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LECUIVRE Jean Nicolas 62, Celestine 54, Leonine 24, Victor 22, Eugenie 18, Virginia 15 Marie 15	1886	Warwick, RI	1900
LECUIVRE Nicholas 30, Marie 18	1886	Warwick, RI	1900
LEGLEY ...44, Adolphine 40, Marie 20, Germaine, Camille 18, Elaine 14	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LEJEUNNE Joseph 44, Jule 42, John 17, Julia 7	1904	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LEMPEREUR Jean 34, Maria 33	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LEQUENNE Alphonse 37, Philomene 37, Georges 8, Albert 5		Woonsocket, RI	1910
LETAIN Louis 45, Louise 38, Josephine 18, Estere 16, Edmond 13, Lucienne 11	1899	Warwick, RI	1900
LIBON Theodore, Albert 7, boarders with VERFAILLE Pierre	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LISEROCK Emile 36, Marie 36, Emile 14, Lea 7	1900	Woonsocket, RI	1910

LOMBAERT Urbain 30, Emily 27	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LONG Maria 43, Eliza 18, Mathilde 11, Mariette 8, Nellie 6.	1894	Woonsocket, RI	1910
LOSPELT, Albert 26,... 28, Fernande 3	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MAJEURE Henri 45, Catherine 45	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MARTENS, Victor 37, Maria 30, Florent	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MARTINELI Jean 41, Mathilda 39, Augustine 17, a...15, Lusiane 5, Lussier 4, Toussaint 38 bros.		Woonsocket, RI	1910
MASSART Joseph 40, Mary 44, Josephine 11, Genevieve 9, Lilian 7, Felix 4	1894	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MASSART Lucien 37, Sarah 37, Chester 13, Irving?, Edna 3, Ella 3, Ernest 1	1892	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MASSIE Hypolite 62, boarder with ZELLNER George	1895	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MAWET Constant 24	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MEYER Clement 34, wife Marie 30 from Belgium		Woonsocket, RI	1910
MINN Theodor 59, Josephine 41, Susie 17	1888	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MISS Josephine 52 widow,	1910	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MONTE? Leon 43, Alphonsine , Leon 19, Alphonsine 7	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
MULLE Alphonse 30, Jeanne 26	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
ORBAN Frank 49, Josephine 46, Camile 18, Eugenie 16, Charlie 8	1891	Warwick, RI	1910
PAQUIN Stanilas, 35, Made 47, Emile 15, Camile 15, Omerie 5	1890	Warwick, RI	1910
PARKIE Celine 43 widow, boarder with RICHARD Jean Baptiste	1898	Warwick, RI	1900
PARMENTIER Alphonse 27, Elizabeth 30, Victor 2	1902	Woonsocket, RI	1900
PAUWELS Martha 15 daughter of DEMEYERE Julie	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1900
PEAT John 31, ... 31, Pier 3	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
PERENCE Collette 45, Jeanne 17	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
PIERARD Jean 68, Marie 58	1893	Warwick, RI	1910
PIERRE Jean Baptiste 64, Marie 58, Jules 25, Jean Baptiste 22, Melina 19, Octave 18, Arch.11	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
PIETTE Francois 37, boarder with COLBERT Eugene	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1900
PINOLET John 54, Augustine daughter 24, Mary 21, August 22, Louise 17, Edward 18, Julian 13	1891	Warwick, RI	1910
PINOY Eugene 30, Philomene 30, Rosalma 5, Louise 4, Lodia 2, Eugene 1	1888	Warwick, RI	1910
PINOY Leodine 23, sister and living with PINOY Eugene	1888	Warwick, RI	1900
POLIS Octave 35, Ariana 24, Maria 3	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1900
PONCELET Jules 31, Victoria 26, Arthur 6, Laura 3, Leon 1	1890	Warwick, RI	1900
PONCELET Nicolas 56, Elizabeth 36, Leopold 33, Leonie 23, Lecine 21, Camille 19, Fel.16, Jos 14	1892	Warwick, RI	1910
PONCIN Didier 63, Eugenie 54, Marg. 22, Alice 22, Julia 20, Ferdinand 18	1892	Warwick, RI	1900
POTTIE Gele 41, Marie 39, Camil 15, B... 13, Adrienne 8, L... 5, H...1	1888	Warwick, RI	1900
PROTIN Joseph 51, Ellen 50	1891	Warwick, RI	1900
PROTIN Louis 28, Athalie 21, Clara 18, Gustine 15	1891	Warwick, RI	1900
PROVOST Alfred 36	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1900
PRUCKER Jules 53, Emily 48, Mary 27, Louiza 44	1894	Warwick, RI	1900
RAINSON Clement 31, Marie 30, Louis 6, Rose 3	1893	Warwick, RI	1910
RALISSET? Joseph 37, Francoise 36	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1900
REINSON Clement, wife Marie from Belgium		Woonsocket, RI	
RICHARD Jean Baptiste 55, Orellie 44, Zilda 20, August 16, Marie 15, Paul 9	1889	Warwick, RI	1900

RICHARD Nicolet 47, Marie 45, Lucien 10, Marie 10, Felicie 10	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
ROGISTER Jacques 46, Rosalie 43, Francis 19, William 16, Gabrielle 13	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
ROLAND Celestin 49, widower, Amelie 20, George 16	1892	Warwick, RI	1900
ROMELEARE Eugene 49, boarder with COLBERT Eugene	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SAGART? LAGART? Jean Baptiste 50, Elodie 24, Lucienne 10/12	1897	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SHELLER John 46, Lucy 45, Victoria, Marie, Agnes, Anne 13, Lucien, Simone 7	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SCHMIDT Joseph 30, Cidonie 24, Rosina 3/12	1899	Warwick, RI	1900
SCHMITT Joseph 38, Victorine 33, Joseph 12, M...7, Blanche 3	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SERVAIS Dieudonne 36, Marie Agnes 38, Yvonne 10, Ivan 8	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SEVIGNEN Julia 20, boarder with TROISFONTAINES Henri	1900	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SEYNAVE Emil 45, Octavie 47, Arthur 20, Elvira 12, Julia 10	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SHARDIER Joseph 41, Louise 37, Amede 17, Emile 18, Louis 12, Mar.11, Lucienne 8, Clem.5	1894	Warwick, RI	1900
SCHOOS Jules 24, Marie 23	1893	Warwick, RI	1900
SMEESTERS Eulalie 55 mother of CORNIL Elodie	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SMEESTERS Ferdinand 23, Victorine 21, Marcel 4, Gabriel 2/12	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SMEESTERS Gabriel 25 brother of CORNIL Elodie	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
SMITCH Joseph 38, Aloise 34, A.10	1895	Woonsocket, RI	1910
STANS Leon 32, Elina 29	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
STASLENS Henri 17, boarder with COLBERT Eugene	1904	Woonsocket, RI	1910
STEVENIN Joseph 60, Eliza 67, Lucie, Josephine, Desire, Joseph, Jules, Eugene, Leon, Bertha	1901	Woonsocket, RI	1910
STONE Charlie 30 born Sweden parents born Belgium		Warwick, RI	1900
STONE John 53, Mary 47, Mari 21, Elmer 20, Jules 16, John 13, Melina 10, Octave 10, Ashael 1	1899	Warwick, RI	1900
THIERON Mary 48 (widow) Dezzara 17, Jennie 22, Flora 19, John 14, Mary 12, J..8, Albert 4	1899	Warwick, RI	1900
TROISFONTAINES Denis 36, Marie 26, Marine 4, Denis 2/12	1898	Woonsocket, RI	1900
TROISFONTAINES Henri 32, Felicie 30, Leonie	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
TROISFONTAINES Leon 38, Made (mother) 70 with TROISFONTAINES Denis		Woonsocket, RI	1910
VACAMAIN Gaetand 4, Gotrand 1, children of VACAMAIN Victor		Woonsocket, RI	1910
VACAMAIN Victor 43, Marie 47, Robertine 17, Romeo, 15, Julienne 12, Gaston 10, Eldage 8, Gaetand 4, Gontrand 1.	1898	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VAN BEVEN Alphonze 57, Mathilda 56, Alberta 19	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VAN BEVEN Henri 31, Eulalie 33, Mathilde 4	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VAN SAELEM Isidore 30, Julie 29		Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANBEVER 31, Eulalie 33, Mathilde 4	1904	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANBEVER Leonard 36, Marie 31, Marie 5.	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANDEBUNDERIE Emil 42, Apoline 39, Arthemise 13		Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANDENBORNE Louis 35, Marie 33, Aline 13, Helen 12	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANDERVELT Julien 25	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANEUWEKERQUE Charles 27, Josephine, Claire 8	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANHAWEBECKER Alfred 30 boarder with COLBERT Eugene	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANHOUTTE Gustave 39, Ellen 28	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VANHOUWE Romain 25, Celine 25, Romain 2			

VERFAILLE Pierre 58, Leonie 35, Paul 20, Jules 16, Bertha 18, Blanche 13	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VERUSTE Camille 54, Marie 48, F...,Guillaume, Jules, Marie, Joseph, Madeline, Francois, Julien	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VERVAERT Aimee 41, Marie 36, Aime 12, Alexandra 8, Marcel 5	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VIEREN? Alexandra 24, Blan...21	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1940
VIEUXTEMPS Jean boarder with Aubin family	1910	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VINCENT Denis 40, boarder with GUERREN Jean	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1940
VIRILLE Cyril 25, Marie 23, Irene	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
VLEMINCKE Victor 34, Zenobie 29	1909	Woonsocket, RI	1910
WALTER Mary 65 mother-in-law of HUBET...	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
WANTIS Dennis 60, Maria 55, Jules 18, Octave 17, Marie 27, George 5	1907	Woonsocket, RI	1910
WARY Leon 31, Mellia 22, Katie 6, Louis (brother) 24	1890	Warwick, RI	1910
WEGIMONT Thomas 37, Gerne 37, Thomas 15, Genie 13, Louise, John, Louis, Henri, Frank	1905	Woonsocket, RI	1900
WESPHAL Francois 47, Corinne 31	1903	Woonsocket, RI	1910
YVET Joseph 34, Eva 29, Leonard 7, Louis 6, Jean 1 6/12, Alphonse 1/12	1908	Woonsocket, RI	1910
ZELLNER George 50, wife Clar 40 from Belgium, Rene 47, Jane 15, Jean 2	1906	Woonsocket, RI	1910

Spelling of names not always accurate because of errors made by census takers and by 1997 census copler.~  
A very few names taken from 1900 Natlck and Woonsocket censuses were also added

#### The Giants of Tournai / Doornik

Queen of Tournai

Grand'ma Cucu

The Little Hunter

Louis XIV

